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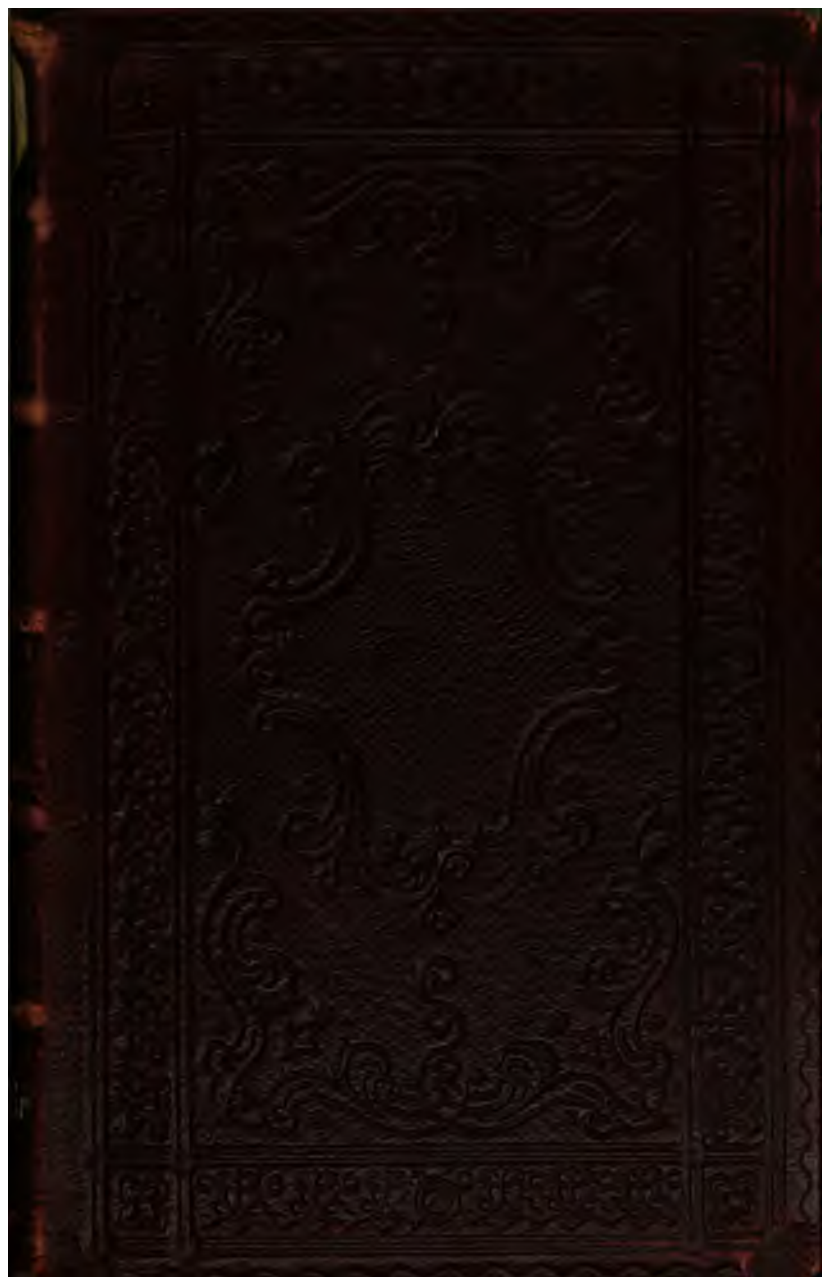
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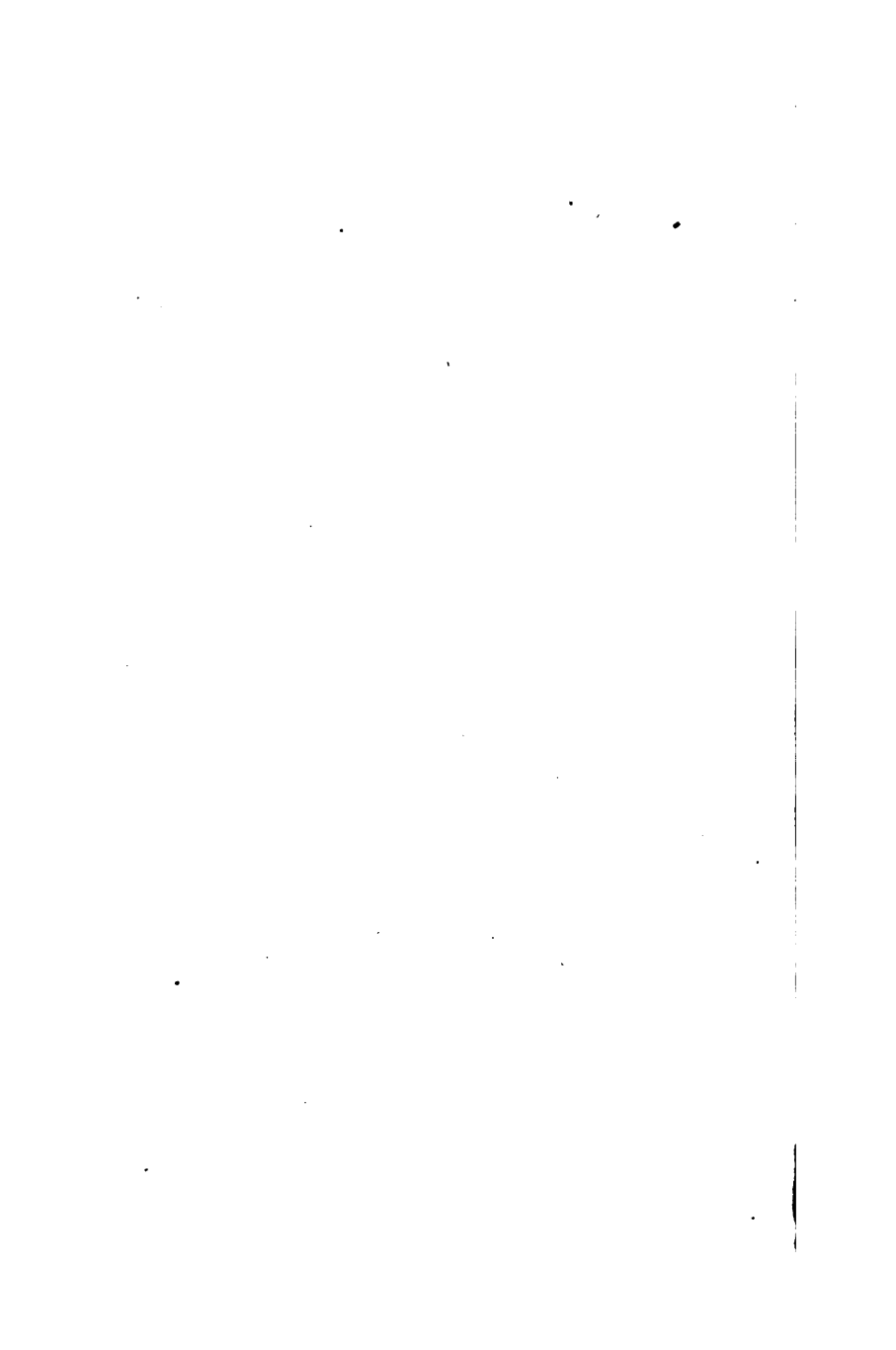


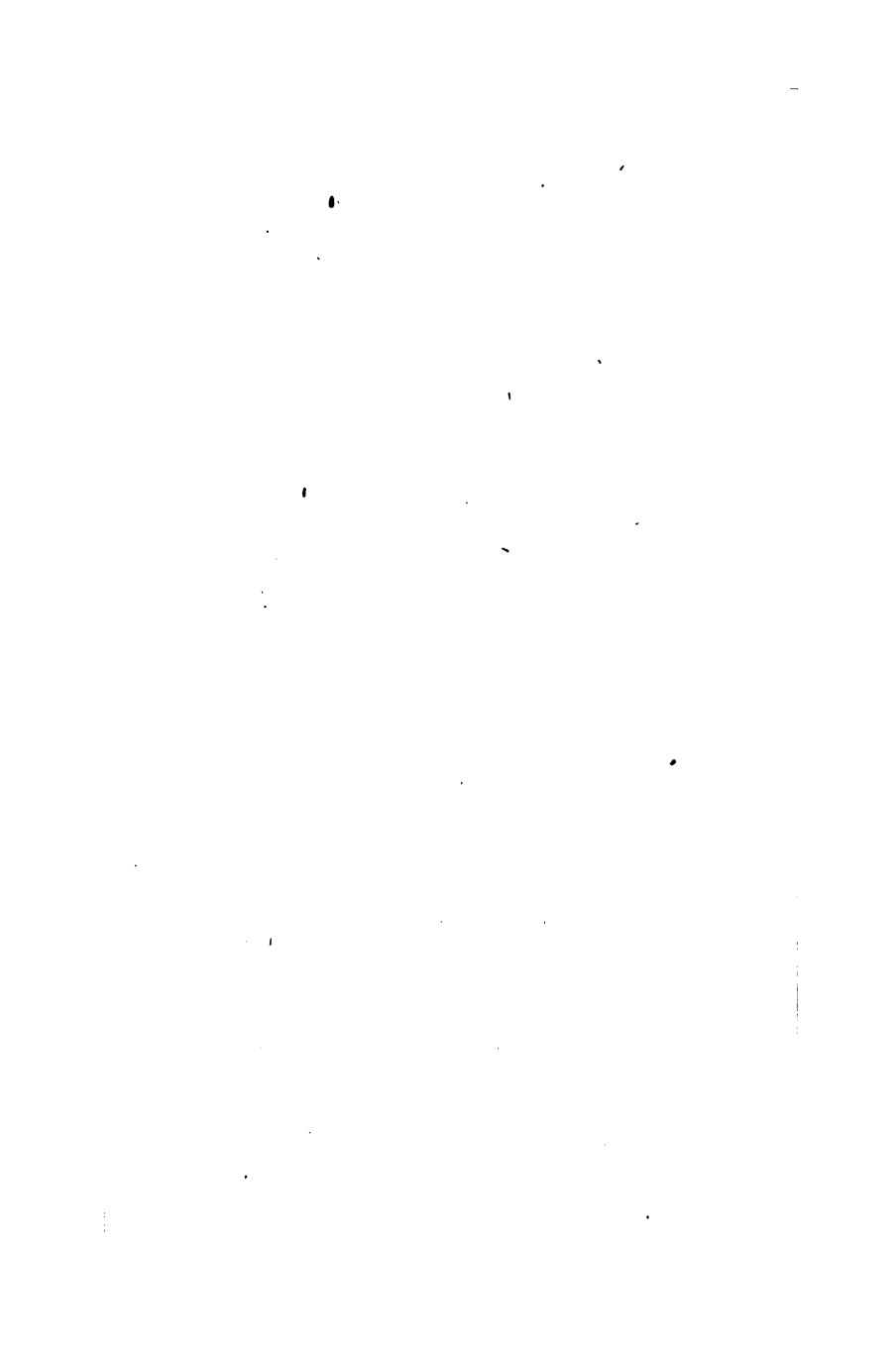
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THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
BRECHIN,  
BY  
DAVID D. BLACK,  
TOWN CLERK.

Breathes there the man, with soul so dead,  
Who never to himself hath said,  
This is my own, my native land!  
*Scott.*

BRECHIN:  
ALEXANDER BLACK, BOOKSELLER.  
BLACK AND CO. PRINTERS.  
1839.

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## **HISTORY OF BRECHIN.**



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ALTHOUGH THE PUBLICATION WILL HAVE NO PRETENSIONS TO RANK WITH *HISTORY*, ACCORDING TO THE PROPER INTERPRETATION OF THAT WORD, YET, FOR WANT OF A BETTER NAME, THE PUBLISHERS PROPOSE TO STYLE THE WORK "THE HISTORY OF BRECHIN."

PROSPECTUS.



# HISTORY OF BRECHIN.

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## CHAPTER I.

### THE HISTORY OF BRECHIN TO THE YEAR 1250.

THE origin of the city of Brechin, like that of most other burghs, is involved in much obscurity ; indeed it may be said to be absolutely unknown. The oldest document we have seen connected with the burgh is the notarial copy of a note of a charter by William the Lion, who reigned between 1165 and 1214, *confirming* to the bishops and Kyldees of the city of Brechin a right of market on Sundays as formerly granted by David I., and that "as freely as the bishop of St. Andrews enjoys the like privilege." Now, as David I. died in 1153, we may fairly infer that Brechin was a royal burgh and place of some note in the twelfth century. It has been generally reported that the episcopal see of Brechin was endowed by David I. in 1150 ; and it is certain that Sampson, or rather Sansane, was bishop of the city of Brechin during the reign of Malcolm IV. (1153-1165,) for the name occurs frequently in charters granted by that monarch.

The Kyldees, Kuldees, or Culdees, were christian

pastors brought into Great Britain in the sixth century by St Columba. The Culdees are stated to have had a convent in Brechin, and to have got a grant of the town of Brechin from king Kenneth III., A. D. 970. We never saw the grant nor any satisfactory evidence that it ever existed ; but we find that Leod, abbot of the Culdee convent of Brechin, was witness to a grant made by king David I. to his new abbey of Dunfermline, and it is thus proved that the Culdees had an establishment in Brechin about 1150. This convent is believed to have stood a little to the west of the present parish church, in the gardens now belonging to the kirk-session, still called "the College Yards." A small well of delightfully pure water in these gardens receives the name of the College Well, and is reported, by tradition, to have been the well of the Culdee convent.

The Culdee teachers brought to Scotland by Columba, succeeded, in process of time, in expelling the Druids, the priests of the ancient Scots ; and if we allow ourselves to believe that the Culdees did to the Druids their predecessors, as was done to the Culdees by their successors the priests of the Church of Rome, and subsequently to these priests by the teachers of the reformed doctrine, then, without much stretch of imagination, we can conceive that the site of the present Presbyterian Church of Brechin was the place of worship successively of the Druids, Culdees, Romanists, Episcopalians, and Presbyterians. Nor is there any thing in the situation of the church of Brechin opposed to the idea that it was originally a Druidical temple. The church stands on a sandstone rock, the sides of which are precipitous on the

south and east ; and while the western side slopes more gently, the northern side appears to have been a deep ravine ; for every excavation made on that side proves that the earth, to a very great depth, is forced or artificial. Such an isolated rock presented a fit site for the worship of the Druids ; and the dells around may then have been planted, as some of them still are planted with umbrageous trees, the castle and town of Brechin being, in the days of the Druids, both alike unknown. Whether such a succession of religious orders did or did not occur on the little mount which for ages has been the burying place of the inhabitants of Brechin, it is impossible positively to say ; but there is nothing in the supposition inconsistent with what has occurred amongst other nations which have undergone changes in their religious dynasties—the newly established order having generally selected the places of worship of the expelled party for the site of the new churches or altars.

The derivation of the name of the town, like the origin of the burgh, is the subject of much doubt. In the oldest document which we have seen, the name is spelled exactly as it is now written—Brechin ; and the various orthographies of Brychin, Brichen, and Brechyne, which may occasionally be found, do not throw any additional light on the origin of the name.

From the connection which existed between the Culdees and the town of Brechin, and the probability that this body succeeded a Druidical establishment at Brechin, an opinion has been hazarded that the name of the place is to be looked for from some such source ; and as it appears that in the days of St Columba there was a noted Druid of the name of Broichan or Brœ-

chan, it has been suggested that probably the Culdees when they expelled the Druids, bestowed on the place, the name of the chief person previously connected with it. The Druids have furnished another theory equally plausible for the name of our burgh, and it is this:—The island of Anglesey is well known to have been the principal station of the Druids in the southern part of Great Britain, but from this island the Druids were expelled by the Romans in the year 61, while Nero was emperor. The Druids who were thus driven from their principal station, fled into Caledonia, Ireland, and the lesser British isles, carrying with them, of course, the rites and ceremonies of their religion, as well as the laws and customs of their community which they had formerly used. In Anglesey there are yet the remains of a rude throne or tribunal, composed of earth and stones, which belonged to the arch Druid, and which is called Bryngwyn or Breingwyn, that is the supreme or royal tribunal. The analogy of this word Brein-gwyn to Bre-chin, leads the supporters of this theory to assert that either the arch Druid expelled from Anglesey, had taken refuge here, and hence given the name of a royal tribunal to this place, or that Brechin was always the supreme tribunal of the Druids in North Britain, Anglesey being their capital in South Britain, and Dreux the capital of the sect in Gaul. Pretty nearly allied to this is still another theory, that Brechin was the principal seat of justice to the Druids, and thence called Brehon, or the Judger, a word identical with the name of those judges and laws so often mentioned in the histories of Ireland. Certainly the numerous Druidical remains still to be found in the vicinity of

Brechin—the circle at Easter Pitforthie—the temple at Barrelwell or Pitpullox, of which only one stone now stands—the erection at Vane of Fearn—the *Lan* or Mound on the farm of Hilton of Fearn, and several other similar structures—go to prove that the Druids were a powerful body in this quarter—independent of the conclusions arrived at by Mr. Huddleston in his edition of Toland's History of the Druids, that the three farms close upon Brechin called Pittendriech, are identical with Pit-an-druach, the burial place of the Druids. May we add that the small farm called the Town of Arns at the foot of Caterthun, might probably have been a residence of this hypothetical arch Druid, for “Arn” in Gaelic, we understand, means a judge?

The apparent similarity of the words Brechin and Brein-gwyn, royal tribunal, has given rise to another speculation regarding the name of the town, founded upon a tradition, for it scarce deserves a better name, if it is even entitled to that appellation, that Brechin was the capital of Pictavia and the seat of the Pictish kings, the round tower so conspicuous an appendage of the church having (as this tradition bears) been built for a *look-out* by this nation, while the hill of Caterthun, about four miles to the north of the town, surrounded with an immense coronal of loose stones, is reported to have been a fortification belonging to that ancient nation; and hence called Caither-Dun, the City hill or fort. The same tradition states that the parish of Menmuir, in which this hill is situated, derived the name of Main-Muir, the Stone wall or fort, from the erection on Caterthun, and that Stricathro, the parish immediately adjoining to Brechin



on the east, was called from its locality Strath-Cathrach, the City-Strath.

Other antiquarians pretend, and certainly with as much apparent authority, to deduce the word Brechin from a Gaelic term signifying a sloping bank, and descriptive of the site of the town, which is placed on the face of a brae, and they give us Brica as the Gaelic word which is thus so descriptive ; but for our own part we must admit we have never been able to find any Gaelic scholar who knew the word Brica as a Gaelic term.

Amidst these contending authorities, we think ourselves warranted, if not indeed bound, to offer a theory of our own. Brechin lies on the banks of the Esk where that river is confined between the high grounds of Burkhill on the south, and the high grounds of Brechin on the north and west. To the east the land on each side of the river presents a gradual slope or fall with some excellent carse ground close on the banks of the river. Looking from Brechin down the Esk towards Montrose, the observer has before him a beautiful little strath or valley, of which the high grounds of Brechin are the head or western end. Brecon in Wales is, we have been informed, similarly situated at the head of the vale of the Usk after it is joined by the river Hondey. Most readers are aware that Usk, Uisk and Esk signify the same thing in Gaelic, namely, water. Every person, we think, must be struck by the fact of two towns so remote from each other, and yet approximating so near in name, being so similarly situated as are Brecon in Wales, at the head of a valley through which runs the river Usk, and Brechin in Scotland, at the head of a strath

through which runs the river Esk. Now we find that in Gaelic, Phrae-ken or Phrui-ken, means the head of the strath, and hence we are inclined to infer comes the words Brecon and Brechin.

The town of Brechin was burned by the Danes in 1012, during the reign of Malcolm II. Of course no traces of this conflagration now exist, and little is known of the mischief then done except the simple fact that the town was burned by the Danes. But a natural inference arises that the place was then of some consequence, otherwise the Danes would not have wasted their time and attention upon it. In this view, it may not be uninteresting to remark on the circumstances which led to this early conflagration of the burgh. Sueno, son of Harold king of Denmark, being banished from home, came to Scotland, where, having become, or pretended to become a convert to christianity, he received a few forces with which he returned and regained his kingdom. Re-instated in power, Sueno immediately invaded England, and because his old friends and allies the Scots opposed this invasion, he sent Olave and Enick, two of his generals, with a powerful army into Scotland. After various battles, in which sometimes the Scots, sometimes the Danes were victorious, Enick was slain and Olave with the remainder of his troops was driven into Morayshire. Upon the news being carried to Sueno in England, he dispatched a reinforcement under the command of Camus, who landed his troops at the Redhead, and pitched his camp at Panbride or Saint Bride. There he was attacked and defeated by the Scots. The Danes then attempted to retreat in three divisions to join their friends under Olave in

Moray. One division under Camus was cut off, and he and all his followers were destroyed at the village of Carnoustie where an obelisk still serves to preserve the memory of this victory, called Camiston Cross; and where the traces of a camp may yet be seen on the side of a burn, by some called a Roman camp, by others a Danish camp, but popularly stiled "Norway Dikes." Another division of the defeated army retreated by Brechin, and in their progress northward burned that town, but they too were attacked and cut off, and the "standing stones," as they are called, in the parish of Aberlemno, are supposed to record this event, and to mark the grave of the general who led this second division. The third division again, which had retreated to their ships, landed on the coast of Buchan, where they also were destroyed by Mornan, Thane of the country. Sueno, not disheartened by his repeated calamities, sent his son Canute with a new army into Scotland, who, after fighting a severe battle in Buchan, concluded a treaty with Malcolm, the conditions of which were that the Danes should leave Scotland, and that neither of the nations should make war on the other, or give assistance to the enemies of the other, during the lives of Malcolm or Sueno. One most important result seems to have attended this contest. Upon its conclusion, Malcolm divided all the royal lands amongst his nobles, and established various new titles of nobility, "*magis ad vanam ambitionem quam ad ullum usum*," Buchanan observes.

This digression may be pardoned, because slight as the connexion of Brechin is with this Danish invasion, it is an important era in early history. Perhaps it is

only continuing the digression to add, that Malcolm was afterwards murdered in the castle of Glamis, in consequence of his avarice and unjust exactions from the nobles he had created, and that the murderers flying, during a snow storm under night, became bewildered and were lost in the loch of Forfar, the ice on which broke beneath the weight of their horses. In the castle of Glamis, the room where Malcolm was murdered is still shewn, and the attention of the visitor is regularly called to the stains of blood on the floor, although, if we mistake not, when Malcolm died, the tree was not planted out of which the boards thus stained are made.

Tradition also points out Brechin and its vicinity as the site of the contest between the Romans under Agricola, and the Caledonians under Galgacus. The South Esk which passes Brechin, is said to have been the *Æsica* of the Romans, upon which they had a station, mentioned in the Itinerary of Richard of Cirencester as being in the province of *Vespasiana*, 23 miles distant from the Tay. In the parish of Oathlaw there are the remains of a Roman camp at Battledikes, on the side of the river Esk, supposed to have been the principal station alluded to by Richard of Cirencester, and at Keithock, near Brechin, there were till within the last few years, the remains of another camp supposed to have been connected with the former. In the woods of Slateford are still to be seen marks of what are supposed to have been a Roman camp, and on the farm of Eastertown of Dunlapp, immediately adjoining Slateford, a Roman sword was lately dug out of a moss. Indeed some of our friends are clearly of opinion that the battle between Agricola

and Galgacus, must have been fought on the sloping ground immediately south of the two hills of Caterthun. We are told by a popular rhyme that

“ Between the Killivair and the Buckler Stane,  
“ There lies mony a bluidy bane”;

or, as another edition of the same rhyme has it,

“ ’Tween the Blawart Lap and the Killivair Stanes,  
“ There lay mony bluidy banes ;”

and as the “ Killivair Stane” is on the farm of Barrelwell, and the “ Blawart Lap” on the farm of Langhaugh, both of which are opposite the western hill of Caterthun, our antiquarian friends presume that the principal struggle had taken place at these points, where the Romans being defeated, had been driven eastward on their camps at Keithock and Slateford, from which they retreated to the Mearns. The “ Killivair Stane” is a plain upright stone, without any trace of the hands of a mason having touched it, exactly similar to those used in Druidical structures ; and most probably the stone is the remains of a Druidical temple, at which place, it may naturally enough be concluded, the onset of the Scots had begun. The “ Buckler Stane” is said to have been a large broad stone lying in the muir on the farm of Langhaugh, near the Blawart Lap, about half-a-mile east by north of the Killivair stone, but removed by the farmer of Langhaugh when the ground was improved some dozen years ago. Other antiquarians would have all these traditions and monuments to apply to the Danish expeditions just noticed. On a subject like this, which Monkbarns has left undetermined, and which has divided antiquarians for ages, it would be presumptuous for us to hazard an opinion.

## CHAPTER II.

## THE HISTORY OF BRECHIN FROM 1250 to 1560.

HITHERTO we have been dealing chiefly with romance and conjecture, and little that we have said is absolutely certain, except that Brechin was the seat of a bishop in the reign of David I. previous to 1153. Perhaps the world might have moved on in its usual course although this *important* fact had not been so distinctly established as it certainly is. Connected thus early and thus closely with the church, Brechin seems to have derived its chief importance and support, for long after, from the same source. We have made up a list of the bishops of Brechin, and have collated the list with various histories and other documents; but as it is a record chiefly of dates and names, we think it better to throw it into a section by itself, than to interrupt the flow of events by discussions here on the subject of the succession of these dignitaries.

Amongst the earliest grants to the church of Brechin extant, is a charter without date, but supposed to have been given about the year 1250, granted by Randolph of Torphichen, of the lands of Bracktuloch. King Robert I. by a charter dated at Scoon, 10th July 1322, gave to John, bishop of Brechin, and to the chaplain and canons of the cathedral church of the Holy Trinity of Brechin, the privilege of having a market within the city on Sundays, the same as had been formerly conferred upon them by the former kings of Scotland, and as had been possessed by them in the time of Alexander "of good memory," his predecessor;

and to that effect Robert commanded all justiciaries, sheriffs, provosts and their bailies to defend the bishop therein. This John was of the family of Kinnymond of Fife, and appears to have been a decided friend of King Robert Bruce ; for in 1309, he is one of the bishops who solemnly under their seals recognize Robert's title to the throne of Scotland. His predecessor, William, was a man of a different stamp, for he was one of the few Scots clergy, who, in 1290, addressed Edward I. of England, entreating that monarch to marry his son to Margaret of Norway, heiress of the crown of Scotland. It is comfortable to reflect, however, that if at this period there was a servile bishop, William, of whom nothing more is known than the circumstance just noted, there was also one generous spirit connected with the burgh, the noble and independent Sir Thomas Maule, whose name is immortalized by the check he gave to the troops of Edward, and by his gallant defence of Brechin Castle for three weeks in 1303. Perhaps it is to Edward's invasion of Scotland that we are to attribute the want of documents connected with the earlier history of Brechin, and the necessity for King Robert renewing the right of market ; for Buchanan tells us, so inveterate was Edward's hatred to Scotland, that when he returned to England after this invasion, "*historias, fœdera, monumentaque vetusta, sive a Romanis relictâ, sive a Scotis erecta, destruenda curavit ; libros omnes, literarumque doctores, in Angliam transtulit.*"

The privilege of market thus renewed by Robert I. was confirmed by David II. who, on 26th October 1359, was pleased to grant a charter stating that

“ for the honour of God, by whom kings reign, and princes decree justice,” and in respect of the true religion being in danger, on account of the troubles and dissensions throughout the kingdom, by which the privileges of the church had been put in danger, therefore he confirmed to the Cathedral Church of Brechin the whole privileges formerly granted by his ancestors. The bishop of this period was Patrick de Leuchars in Fife, a favourite at court, and one of those who took an active part in the redemption of David from the English. Still the right of market, thus guaranteed by repeated royal grants, seems to have been disputed from some quarter or other, for there is a “ cognition” taken regarding it in 1364 by Walter de Biggar, chamberlain of Scotland, John de Rossey, John Lamby, John de Allardice, and other gentlemen ; and thereafter we find David, in 1369, giving a new charter to bishop Patrick, stating that the whole merchants inhabiting the city of Brechin had free ingress and egress to the waters of Southesk and Tay for carrying of their merchandize in boats and ships, upon paying duties accustomed, and that notwithstanding of any grants to the burgesses of Dundee and Montrose, who are strictly prohibited from troubling the merchants of Brechin. This grant was confirmed by Robert II. in 1372 ; and the same prince, in 1374, addressed a precept to his justiciaries, sheriffs and provosts, charging them to defend the bishop of Brechin and the canons of the cathedral church of Brechin in all their lands and privileges.

The earls of Crawford were great benefactors to the church of Brechin in the fifteenth century, and some grants or charters are still preserved having the



arms of that family attached, impressed in a bold and handsome style. The members of the family of Dun appear also to have been zealous supporters of the cathedral. The church having acquired right to the lands of Eaglesjohn for payment of certain quit rents to Sir John Erskine of Dun, that knight, in 1409, mortified these rents to the bishop, from reverence to the Holy Trinity, and from the more secular feeling of affection to Walter, then bishop of Brechin. The lands thus conveyed to the church in 1409 are at present called Langleypark and Broomley, the latter now again belonging to the laird of Dun. There is still extant amongst the papers of the burgh, a curious precept by James I. in 1427, by which his *highness*, for the "growth of grace," and various other ostensible reasons, grants different sums to the cathedral, payable out of his annual rents of the city of Brechin; and amongst the individuals from whose lands these sums are payable, we find the names of William White, Richard Lindsay, possessor of the "forked acre;" David Garden, John Durward, Laurence Smith, John Guthrie, proprietor of certain lands between the "two vennels;" John Tindall, James Myres, James Peter, John Saddler, Mathew Cobb, and John Walker, names still common in Brechin. But the chief friend to the church of Brechin at this early period, was Sir Walter Stewart, Knight, Palatine of Strathearn, Earl of Athole and Caithness, and Lord of Brechin and Cortachy. In 1429, he gifted £40 Scots, payable annually, to the church from his lands of Cortachy, "and failing thereof through war, poverty, or other cause," from his lands and lordship of Brechin, for the maintenance of two chaplains and six boys to per-

form divine service within the choir of the church. He also bestowed the patronage of the church of Cortachy on the cathedral ; and, farther, he gave a piece of land lying on the west side of the city of Brechin, adjoining to the Vennel, for the residence of the boys and chaplains. In these grants, and in a relative obligation by the bishop, there are long directions about the clothing of the boys and in regard to their education and demeanour. In particular, the lads are prohibited from going to the fields without one of the chaplains, and they are ordered, on these occasions, to be clothed in open coats, purple or white, and to *have their hair neatly dressed*. In regard to the chaplains, again, it is provided that one of them shall be instructed in music and the other in grammar, which branches of education they are to study in the hours when they are free from spiritual duties. It is curious to find the bishop, so early as 1435, backing out of his part of the obligation, and upon various pretences reducing the two chaplains to one, and of course reducing the duties to be performed ; and the duties thus reduced seem to have been but indifferently attended to, for, in 1524, there is a decree of the bishop of that period deciding various differences which had arisen between the chaplains and the chapter of the cathedral for non-performance of duties. It is no less curious to remark, that Walter, Earl of Athole, who made these liberal grants to the cathedral of Brechin, was the son of Robert II. by Euphemia, daughter of Hugh, Earl of Ross, and was suspected, from a desire to ascend the throne, of having been the means of procuring the deaths of most of his own relations. Ultimately, he was himself put to death

1

by lingering tortures protracted for three days, in consequence of being the principal instigator of the murder of his nephew, the courtly James I.

The bishop who was so particular about the exterior and interior of the heads of the chaplains and of the boys, was a John Carnoth or Crenuch, a gentleman and a courtier, for he was selected to accompany Margaret, daughter of James I., to France, when she was espoused to the Dauphin, afterwards Lewis XI. In the chronicle of James II. there is an entry regarding him in these terms :—" August 1456, died John Crenuch, bishop of Brechyne, an active and virtuous man." Judging from the documents left, we would say that there was more business done during his reign than during that of any other bishop. Amongst a variety of other grants obtained by this bishop to the church, we may notice that by Alexander Cramond, laird of South Melgund and Auldbar, of an annual rent of £26, payable from a tenement called Lamiesland ; a similar grant by John Sievwright, citizen of Brechin, and a conveyance to the cathedral by Robert Hill of a tenement lying between that of John Tod and Margaret Scolley, and an acre of arable land in the Crofts adjoining the land of Sir Patrick Guthrie—churchmen being generally stiled Sir, in those days. We may also refer to a charter by Mr. Thomas Bell, vicar of the parish church of Montrose, of some property in Murray Street of Montrose, witnessed on 20th June 1431, by Patrick Barclay, then provost of Montrose, and John Niddry, bailie, names still to be found amongst the municipal rulers of that burgh.

Besides acquiring property for the church, bishop Crenuch seems to have acquired property for himself.

Thus in 1444, David Conan, "for a certain sum of money paid to him on his urgent necessity," conveys to the bishop the Templehill of Keithock, to be held of the master of the hospital of St John of Jerusalem, præceptor of Torphichen, for payment of a yearly feu at the feast of the beheading of St John the Baptist ; and this property is ratified to the bishop in 1450 by brother Henry de Livingston, then præceptor of Torphichen. If we mistake not, these lands are now known as the Templehill of Bothers, and form part of the estate of Cairnbank.

A dispute appears to have arisen during this bishop's reign which may afford evidence for fixing the period when either the steeple or the round tower of Brechin was erected. Mr. David Ogilvy, rector of the parish church of Lethnot, having failed to pay a sum of 28 merks, said to have been due from the income of the church of Lethnot to the bishop and chapter of Brechin, was repeatedly cited to appear before the consistorial court. He treated the summonses very lightly and neglected to appear ; but a court was held by Robert Wishart, rector of Cookston, in the diocese of St Andrews, as substitute of the bishop, at Brechin, on the 9th of February 1435, when, after the examination of a variety of witnesses named, it is recorded as having been proved that Lethnot was liable in 28 merks annually to the church of Brechin ; and that in part payment of this debt, Henry de Lichton, vicar of Lethnot, had delivered to Patrick, bishop of Brechin (1354-84) a large white horse, and had also given a cart and horse *to lead stones to the building of the belfrey of the church of Brechin*

in the time of bishop Patrick, and which cart was brought by Elias Wright, then residing at Finhaven.

Bishop Carnock himself seems to have been a builder, but to what extent we cannot say, only we find, in 1579, a grant by the then bishop of a piece of ground "tending along by the wall and street onward to the gate of the tower called *Carnock's Tower*," being, as the document leads us to infer, the gate or entry now called the Bishop's Closs, on the west side of High Street, and opposite the present Relief-Church.

The reign of this bishop, good and worthy as he is reported, appears to have been rather stormy, for, in 1439, we have an instrument bearing that Mr. Thomas Lang, chaplain of the choir, protested against the bishop's bailie for having given possession to William Foote of a tenement on the west side of the High Street, belonging to the chaplains, and asked, if by securing the tenement and *putting out the fires thereof*, he could interrupt the possession; and upon these threats he takes instruments in presence of Alexander Fotheringham, John Forrest, Walter de Craig, and a variety of others, including a John Smith of these times. Again, there is a protest in 1439 by the bishop against certain convocations alleged to have been improperly held in his absence, in one of which it is said the chaplain had been removed from the prebend's stall in the church of Lethnot, and a boy put into the chaplain's place. There are also a variety of documents bearing upon a claim which this bishop had, or pretended to have, upon the lands of Marytown, occupied by William Fullarton. In this dispute, Janet

Ogilvy, widow of Fullarton, just does as the bishop bids her; but her son, Patrick, takes a very different course.

Besides being thus actively engaged, bishop Carnock procured transumps or authentic copies of all the royal grants in favour of the town and cathedral, and obtained ratifications of them by James II. Indeed, the only thing this active man left doubtful is his own surname, which is variously spelled Carnock, Carnoth, Crennach, Crannoch and Crenuch, now commonly said to be equivalent with the surname of Charteris. But the history of the incumbency of this bishop would be incomplete did we not notice that, during his reign, the boundaries of the muir of Brechin were first ascertained. By the bishop's influence, James II. was induced to direct a precept to the sheriff of Forfarshire for the purpose of ascertaining the marches between the lands of Menmuir, belonging to John de Collace, and those belonging to the church. The sheriff accordingly chose an assize, consisting of Sir John Scrymgeour, constable of Dundee, Richard Lyall of Ballumbie, William Lyall of Balnagarro, Patrick Rynd of Carse, Robert Fullarton, Henry Fithie of Ballessock, John Carnegie of that Ilk, Walter Carnegie of Guthrie, William Guthrie of Lunan, Walter Carnegie of Dullivaird, David Watterston of that Ilk, and Thomas Lamby; and this inquest report, on 13th October 1450, that the town's property began at the Threiphaughford in Cruik, extended towards the west, according to the ancient course of the water of Cruik, by the lands of "Balzordy," and went as far west as the lands belonging to John de *Colless* of Balnamoon went. The inquest also state that they had caused make a

large ditch as a fence between the lands of Balyeordie and of the burgh, and that right upon the water of Cruik they had placed a cross with a large stone under it as a march. John Collace, however, does not seem to have tamely submitted to this marching of the lands, for, in May 1451, we have an instrument bearing that John, bishop of Brechin, and Walter de Ogilvy, sheriff of Forfar, compeared upon the water of *Cruock* at the Threiphaughford, and protested for remeid of law in consequence of the march stones having been removed from the situations in which they were placed, and thrown into the water.

It was during the Episcopal reign of bishop Carnock that the battle of Brechin, as it is called, was fought at Huntlyhill, in the parish of Strickathro, about three miles north-east of the city. The historical reader will recollect that the Earl of Douglas was murdered by James II. in Stirling Castle, in February 1452, because he refused to break a league which he had formed with the Earls of Crawford and Ross. In consequence, these noblemen joined the Douglasses in open rebellion to the royal authority. Alexander Gordon, Earl of Huntly, was advancing with a body of troops, consisting of his own vassals, and of the clans Forbes, Ogilvy, Leslie, Grant and Irving, with the intention of joining the royal standard, when he was encountered, on 14th May 1452, near Cairnbank, by the Earl of Crawford in command of the "bodies of Angus," and of the adherents of the rebels in the neighbouring counties, headed by foreign officers. An engagement ensued, and the centre of the royal army began to give way, when John Coless or Collace of Balmamoon, who bearded the bishop about

the marches of the muir, and who hated Crawford in consequence of some dispute regarding property, deserted to the royalists with the left wing which he commanded, and which was the best equipped part of the troops, being armed with battle axes, broad swords and spears. The royal army being thus enforced, and the rebel party so weakened, Huntly, contrary to expectations, gained the victory, and gave his name to the hill where the battle was fought. The Earl of Crawford retired to his castle at Finhaven, about six miles west of Brechin, and is reported to have declared, in the frenzy of disgrace, that he would willingly pass seven years in hell to obtain the glory which fell that day to his antagonist. After his defeat, Crawford turned his vengeance from the royalists towards those who had deserted him, wasting their lands and burning their castles, and he was left at liberty to do so, as Huntly was obliged, immediately after the battle, to return home to protect his own lands from the ravages of the Earl of Moray. Of Coless we have no farther account, but we believe that the family remained proprietors of Balnamoon down to the year 1630, and we find John Collace, fiar of Balnamoon, witnessing a charter by David Ramsay, younger of Balmain, to John Moncur of Slains, of the lands of Cossins and others in the barony of Mondynes and parish of Fordoun, on 12th March 1625, while between that date and the period of the battle of Brechin, the name of Collace occurs frequently in connexion with properties in the town and neighbourhood of Brechin. Of Crawford, again, we are told by Buchanan that soon after the battle of Brechin he took the opportunity of the king passing



through Angus to submit himself to the royal authority, and to make his peace with King James, to whom he remained firmly attached for the remainder of his life. Crawford seems to have been equally anxious to be on good terms with the church, for, in the year 1472, he burdened his lands of Drumcairn, "lying in the lordship of Glenesk," with £3 annually to the cathedral of Brechin.

The stormy reign of James II. did not prevent speculation in the church: at least a precept by James III. in 1463, states plainly that through the profligacy of the bishops and canons of Brechin, the revenues of the cathedral had been greatly reduced by frequent alienations of its property, so that it was then suffering under great deficiency of its resources, and therefore his Majesty exhorts the bishop, (then Patrick Graham, cousin of the king,) to revoke the whole of such alienations as were made without just cause, and His Majesty orders all judges to assist the bishop in the recovery of the property, whether lands, moveable goods or effects. This precept was not allowed to remain a dead letter. In 1464 a decree of the Lords of Council and Session was issued, decerning Walter Dempster of Ochterless to reconvey to the church the lands of Ardoch, Adicate, Bothers and Nether Pitforthie, alleged to have been surreptitiously obtained by him; and Dempster, in 1468, implements the decree by resigning the lands to the bishop "upon his bended knees, and having his hands closed and within those of the bishop." Other documents import that Mr. Dempster being reconciled to mother church, got back his lands for payment of an annual feu to the cathedral. Patrick Graham was afterwards translated

from Brechin to St Andrews, and died archbishop about 1475—a prisoner in Lochleven, broken hearted by court intrigues, although a man of strict morals and considerable learning. Previous to his removal from Brechin, however, he had the influence to obtain from King James III. a charter, dated at Linlithgow 29th July 1466, changing the weekly market day from Sunday to Monday, and of new conferring upon the bailies and citizens of Brechin all their former privileges. The same monarch, shortly before his decease in 1488, granted a charter in favour of the bailies and community of the city of Brechin, by which, in respect of the income of the city being small, and of the faithful services of their predecessors rendered to the king in times of trouble, he gives and confirms to them the right of levying a *bodle* (about one-sixth of a penny sterling) for every horse-load of goods brought to the town, and authorises the magistrates to employ one or more officers to collect the tax.

We cannot tell whether it was this grant, or what it was, that involved our citizens of Brechin in a dispute with the burgesses of Montrose, but we find, in 1508, that there was a contest between the two towns regarding the market, and that the bishop of Brechin, then William Meldrum, granted authority for defending the interests of the city of Brechin and of the church of Brechin, in an action raised before the Lords of Council and Session, at the instance of the *aldermen*, bailies and community of Montrose, against the citizens of Brechin, for vexations and hinderances alleged to have been given to the community of Montrose in their use of the market of Brechin. How this

dispute terminated, or whether it is still in court, we do not know.

In the charter chest of Viscount Arbuthnot, there is a discharge by this bishop Meldrum "of the teind-penny for James Arbuthnott's waird and marriage," dated the "penult Maij 1511;" owning receipt of 35 merks "gude and usual money of Scotland," of composition for what would now, at least, be thought a strange demand.

John Hepburn, who succeeded to the see of Brechin about 1517, seems, in reference to the property of the burgh, to have pursued the course of bishop Carnock. On 25th May 1535, Hepburn procured a cognition by the sheriffs-depute of Forfarshire, James Gray and David Anderson, regarding the common muir, so full and particular, that we shall take leave to lay it before our readers. This cognition states that "in the matter and cause pursued by a reverend father (Fadder) in God, John, bishop of Brechin, the dean, chapter and citizens of the same, by our sovereign lord's letters direct to my lord sheriff of Forfar and his deputies, purporting in effect that where they have the muir of Brechin with the pertinents pertaining to them in commonty and their predecessors, and they have been in possession thereof as common past memory of man, whilk muir, lately, William Dempster of Careston, Janet Ochterlony, his mother, George Falconer, her spouse, William Marshall, David Deuchar, David Waterstone, portioner of the lands of Waterstone, Matthew Dempster and James Fenton of Ogil, has stopped the said reverend father in God, dean, chapter, and citizens of Brechin in casting of peats, turfs and fuel upon the said commonty, and

to pou heather thereupon, and has riven out, tilled, and sawn a part thereof, and built houses upon another part of the same, tending to appropriate the said common muir to them wrongously, and to call both the said parties, and take cognition in the said matter upon the ground of the said lands, as in our sovereign lord's letters direct to my lord sheriff and his deutes foresaid, at more length is contained. By virtue of the which Dd. Lokky, one of the Mairs general of the said sheriffdom, by the sheriff principal's precept direct to him thereupon, passed, summoned, warned and charged the said reverend father, dean and chapter, and citizens of Brechin, followers on the ane part, and the said William Dempster, Janet Ochterlony, George Falconer, William Marshall, David Deuchar, David Waterstone, Matthew Dempster, and James Fenton of Ogil, defenders, on the other part, to compear before my lord sheriff foresaid or his deutes, one or more, to this said court, to hear and see a cognition to be taken in the said matter, and justice equally ministered to both the said parties, after the tenor of our sovereign lord's letters foresaid. At the which day, and in the said court, the said sheriffs deutes gart call the saids parties, followers and defenders, to compear before them the said day and place, to hear and see a cognition taken in the said matter, as they that were lawfully summoned thereto. Both the said parties compearing personally, their rights, reasons, allegations being proponed and shown, together with the depositions of diverse famous witnesses produced and admitted, and sworn in presence of parties foresaid, and their depositions, the said sheriffs deutes being ripely advised therewith, finds

and declares, by cognition taken in the said cause, that the said reverend father in God, and chapter and citizens of Brechin, and their predecessors, has been in peaceable possession of their muir of Brechin foresaid, with their parts pertaining to them, in commonty in time bygone, past memory of man, bounded on all the parts about as follows:—1st, Beginning at the gallows of Keithick at the east; from that west to the Muirfauld dyke, and from that Muirfauld dyke to the Boig dyke, and from the Boig dyke, extending west to the Park dyke, at the south, extending west to the south side of Montboy, the Myre of Montboy there along, and fra thence extending west to the gallows of Fearn; and from the gallows of Fearn, east at the north part to the Qualochty, and from thence east to the gallows of Kethick foresaid; and decerneth the bounds before expressed: The whole muir to be commonty to the said reverend father, dean, chapter and citizens of Brechin: And anent certain lands and houses that are called Todd's houses, and lands lying within the bounds betwixt the gallows of Fearn and the gallows of Keithick, pertaining to James Fenton of Ogil, pertaining to the lands of Fearn, which has been occupied these twenty years bygone, without impediment of Brechin, but bruikit them peaceably, as it is clearly proved before the said sheriffs-deputes; therefore the said sheriffs-deputes excepts that lands and houses in this their process, nought hurting the proprietar or the superior, nor yet the commonty of the same lands and occupiers thereof, but Brechin to have commonty over all the muir; and the said reverend father, dean, chapter and citizens of Brechin, shall be kept and defended in such like possession of the said muir as

said is, in time coming, ay and while they be lawfully called and orderly put therefrom; and also finds, because the said muir is found that it has been used and holden as common in times bygone past memory of man, therefore the said sheriff should cause it to be held common such like in time coming, according to justice, after the tenor, form and effect of our sovereign lord's letters foresaid, and doom given thereupon; and precepts decerned hereupon, according to justice." The cognition thus formally taken was ratified by the precept of Lord Gray, sheriff of Forfar, in a court held by him at Forfar, within two days after the perambulation of the muir by his deputes.

Hepburn, who took the trouble of thus fixing the boundaries of the common muir, was descended of the powerful family of Bothwell, and is reputed to have been a man of great abilities. He died in August 1558, and Keith says that Listacus *de rebus gestis Scotorum*, gives the prelate a very *large* character: But if he was, as we conceive he was, the John Hepburn who was abbot of St. Andrews in 1513, and who competed with Andrew Foreman for the archbishopric of that see, after the death of Alexander Stewart at the battle of Flodden, then he scarce deserves the very large character here spoken of; for, if Buchanan is to be believed, Hepburn was a factious plotter, a greedy, ambitious and intolerant priest, and the cause of much trouble during the regency of the Duke of Albany. The documents still in existence in Brechin, prove that he was an active and an intelligent man. As to his moral character, these documents afford no information. He is the last Roman Catholic bishop who has left any documents connected with the town; for although, after his death,

and previous to the reformation, there were other two bishops in the see of Brechin, namely, Donald Campbell and John Sinclair, there are no writings in existence in Brechin connected with the Episcopal reign of either of these gentlemen. It is curious enough to observe that the last document by a bishop of the church of Rome, remaining amongst the records of Brechin, is a charter granted by bishop Hepburn at request of Sir John Erskine of Dun, the great reformer of the church, then the patron of the chaplainry of the Virgin Mary, in the church of Brechin, founded by his progenitor Sir Robert Erskine of Dun, whereby the bishop, in consequence of the incomes of the two chaplains being insufficient for their support, unites the two chaplainrys into one, and appropriates the income for the support of one chaplain only. This charter is dated at Farnell, which then belonged to the Erskines, 27th June 1556.

Campbell and Sinclair just alluded to, although they have left no traces of their reigns in the records of Brechin, appear both to have been men of considerable eminence. Campbell, who was of the family of Argyle, died invested in the office of Lord Privy Seal to Queen Mary in 1562; and Sinclair, who was of the noble house of St. Clair, earls of Roslin, had the honour to join Queen Mary in matrimony to Lord Darnley. Bishop Sinclair was also first an Ordinary Lord of Session, and afterwards president of that court; by the constitution of which, at that period, seven of the members behoved to be laymen, and seven clergymen, besides the Lord President, who was also required to be a churchman. In 1584, *parochial* clergymen were declared incapable of exercising

any office in the College of Justice, that their minds might not be diverted from their proper functions; and Cromwell, with that strong spirit of common sense which was exhibited in most of his measures, by act in 1650, debarred all clergymen, without distinction, from sitting on the judicial bench of the Court of Session. After the reformation of 1560, several parsons and rectors were lords of Council and Session, but John Sinclair, bishop of Brechin, was the last churchman who was president of that court.

The records of Brechin are altogether silent on the events which occurred in the burgh when romanism was abolished and protestantism established, and neither tradition nor general history gives any information on the subject. We, therefore, infer that this change in the religion of the state had created little disturbance in the city of Brechin.



## CHAPTER III.

## THE HISTORY OF BRECHIN FROM 1560 to 1600.

WE come now to treat of a period which produced changes on every burgh in Scotland, but more especially on those burghs which were the seats of Episcopal dignitaries, we mean the Reformation in 1560. The Duke of Argyle, who was then the most popular and most potent nobleman in Scotland, had the influence to introduce into the see of Brechin, Alexander Campbell, a son of the family of Ardkinglass, who, at the period of his induction, appears to have been a mere youth ; for we find that, the year after his induction, he got liberty from Queen Mary to go abroad for his education ; and in the Book of Assumptions of 28th January 1573-4, it is noticed that he was then at Geneva at the schools. As there are no documents with Campbell's name existing in Brechin from 1569 to 1579, we are inclined to suppose that he had been abroad between these periods ; and we adopt this opinion the more readily, because we find that although his licence to go abroad for seven years was granted in 1567, he was present with Regent Moray in the convention at Perth in July 1569. During the absence of the bishop for the period alluded to, David, archdean of Brechin, commendator of Dryburgh, managed the temporalities of the bishoprick of Brechin. Alexander Campbell was inducted into the see in 1566, and died bishop of Brechin in 1610, so that he filled the Episcopal chair for 44 years, from which circumstance, independent of other authorities, it might

fairly be inferred that he was not a very old man when he was elevated to the dignity of a bishop. But the most remarkable circumstance connected with this gentleman, was the terms of the grant in his favour of the bishoprick. By this document Campbell was empowered to sell, for his own benefit, all the revenues and properties belonging to the see then vacant, or when they should become vacant. Of this power the young bishop availed himself, or was obliged to avail himself, by making large grants to his patron the Duke of Argyle, who was not without strong temporal reasons for supporting the Reformation. At the period of Campbell's accession, the see of Brechin was possessed of a revenue of £410 in money, 11 bolls of wheat, 61 chalder 5 bolls of bear, 123 chalder 3 bolls meal, 15 bolls of oats, 11 and a half dozen of capons, 16 dozen and 10 poultry, 18 geese, and 9 barrels of salmon annually. But although Argyle swept off the greater part of these good things, bishop Campbell made some grants and sales for his own especial benefit. Thus, immediately on his accession, he disposes the Little Mill of Brechin, with the acre of land and other rights thereto pertaining, to William Kinloch, burgess of Dundee, and Janet Lindsay his wife, in liferent, and to Alexander Ramsay in fee, and that for payment of a price of £30, and an annual feu of 3s. 4d. The property thus sold passed from Ramsay to William Fullarton of Ardo, who transferred it to the town of Brechin in 1605; and by that corporation, the Little Mill was converted into a waulkmill in 1693, and afterwards disannulled, the Muckle Mill having swallowed up the duties and properties of the Little Mill. There is (or was) in the charter chest

of the burgh of Brechin, a document connected with the Little Mill of considerable interest to antiquarian lawyers—a precept of sasine, of same date with a charter, but being a distinct document from the charter, granted, on 11th February 1597, by Alexander Ramsay, for infefting William Fullarton in this property.

The example set by the highest dignitary of the church of Brechin was quickly followed by the smaller powers. The archdean sold his mansion; the presbyters constituted by the Palatine of Strathearn, disposed of their house; the chancellor conveyed away his manse, and every one was more active than another in converting the property of the church to his own private uses. It is amusing to notice the various pretexts fallen upon by these churchmen for this general spoliation. The bishop found that the piece of ground from nearly opposite the Tolbooth to the present Bishop's Closs, had, for many years, been a receptacle of filth and nuisance, so that not only the citizens of Brechin had contracted disease and infirmity thereby, but the bishop himself had not been able to walk in his own garden in safety by reason thereof, and therefore, being anxious to remove this nuisance, (so the charter bears) the bishop and chapter sold the property to James Graham. The archdean, again, discovered that his mansion was in a ruinous state, and having of purpose to build a new one in lieu thereof, he sold the old, with the houses and yards pertaining thereto, for a certain sum of money, to Mr. Thomas Ramsay, commissary of Brechin. The chancellor, in like manner, conveyed a *piece of waste ground* upon which *formerly* stood his manse, with the garden thereof, to Mr. Paul Fraser: And the presbyters of Strathearn

found that part of their residence and habitation was in a like dangerous and decayed situation, and that there was no cure but a sale. These and other similar grants are all ratified by James VI.; and thus a great part of the property belonging to the church of Brechin passed to lay hands. If we are to believe the reformed clergy of ~~this æra~~, the manses, houses, and hospitals of the Roman Catholics had been contrived to last only during the continuance of the papistical dominion; for, at the period alluded to, the buildings are all found ruinous, while the lands, formerly so fair, are declared to be pieces of mere waste ground. But there is one redeeming fact connected with this exhibition of worldly mindedness: James VI. by a charter dated at Leith 20th June 1572, and granted with consent of John, Earl of Morton, regent, instituted the hospital of Brechin. The charter narrates that His Majesty, in consideration of the duty incumbent upon him to provide for the comfort of the poor, the lame and the miserable, whether parents, orphans or destitute persons, grants that there be an hospital founded within the city of Brechin, into which persons of the above description shall be admitted and properly accommodated; and because of there having been diverse annual rents within the city, which, in former times of ignorance, were mortified to presbyters and chaplains for the performance of masses and anniversaries which were then by authority of the word of God abolished, therefore the king appropriates the annual rents to the more useful purpose of supporting the poor in an hospital, and appoints the bailies, council and community of the city of Brechin, and their successors, patrons of the hospital, and ordains that

all the lands and annual rents appropriated for papistical purposes, shall pertain to the bailies, council, and community, for support of the hospital. The chanter's manse, a house in the Lower Wynd, was bought for an hospital in 1608; and in 1688, there is a minute of council strictly prohibiting any person from receiving any benefit from the hospital except they "keep the house and wear the habit." This injunction seems soon to have fallen into abeyance, for, in 1689, we find a minute of council dispensing with the pensioners living in the hospital, there called the Bede House, upon account that it was then neither wind nor water tight, but continuing to them their pensions notwithstanding. The revenues thus gifted by King James have always been applied by the town council of Brechin for the maintenance of poor people within the town. The gift was ratified by James upon his attaining majority in July 1587. The original grant in 1572, is witnessed by "Mr. George Buchanan, pensioner of Corsragwell," the celebrated historian, and the tutor of James VI.

In 1573 a rencontre took place between the supporters of James and the Earl of Morton, then regent, and the friends of the beautiful and unfortunate, if not highly culpable, Mary. This engagement is known by the title of the "Bourde of Brechin," and was fought by Adam Gordon of Auchindown, on the side of the Regent's party, and by Lords Crawford, Gray, Ogilvy and Glamis, of the Queen's party. In the previous year Gordon had gained a considerable advantage over his opponents at Craibstane in Aberdeenshire, and, emboldened by that victory, he entered the Mearns and prepared to push south through

Angus-shire. The noble and gallant lords of the Queen's party resolved to stop Gordon, and for this purpose they assembled all the forces of Angus at Brechin. But Gordon being apprised of their proceedings, left the siege of Glenbervie, with which he was then engaged, came to Brechin over night with the most courageous of his troops, knocked down the watch, surprised the town, fell upon the gallant lords, drove them from the city, and took possession of the town and castle of Brechin. Next morning, the Lords of the Queen's party being informed of the few troops which Auchindown had with him, collected their scattered forces and marched to Brechin to give him battle. Gordon courageously met the lords, routed them, slew about 80 of their troops, and took Lord Glamis prisoner.

Alexander Scott, who wrote in 1562, is said to have been a native of Brechin. Of this there may be doubt, but it is probable he was in some way connected with the burgh, for we have heard his poems recited by individuals in the town, who represented that they had the verses handed down to them by tradition. One of these poems struck us as particularly plaintive. It is entitled an address to the heart, and runs thus:—

Return thee hame, my heart, again,  
And byde where ye was wont to be ;  
Thou art ane fule to suffer pain  
For luve o' ane that laves not thee.

My heart, take neither strute nor wae  
For ane, without a better cause ;  
But be thou blythe and let her gae,  
For feint a crum o' thee she faas.

Ne'er dunt again within my breast,  
Nor let her slights thy courage spill,  
She'll dearly rue her ain beheist;  
She's sairest paid that gets her will.

As the close of the sixteenth century is the close of the history of the connexion of the popish hierarchy with the cathedral church of Brechin, we may here take a hasty glance at the constitution of the chapter, and at the altarages and chaplainries connected with the cathedral, during the time of papacy, as stated in the documents still existing. The charter by Robert I., in 1322, granting a right of market on Sundays is addressed to the bishop, chaplains, and canons of the cathedral church of the Holy Trinity of Brechin. Amongst the old records there is part of an apostolic letter bearing to be dated on the Monday of the Holy Trinity in 1372, and to be issued by Patrick, bishop of Brechin, and the chapter of the cathedral church of Brechin, in presence of the canons, rectors, vicars and elders of the diocese, for the purpose of ascertaining the number of benefices belonging to the church, the dignities and offices belonging to the cathedral, what were prebendaries, where the eleven benefices belonging to the church were to be found, and which four have the dignity of dean, chanter, chancellor and treasurer, and which five have the dignity of archdean. The witnesses to this letter are described as Fergus the præcentor ; Richard the chancellor ; Matthew, treasurer of Aberbrothock ; Stephen, archdean ; William, vicar of Dalgarnock ; Radulph Wyld, subdean ; John of Drum, prebend of Buthergill ; Thomas de Leuchars, prebend of Guthrie ; John Wyld, rector of Logie ; John de Coke, rector of Morozelrie ;

and Alexander Doig, vicar of Dunnington, canons of the church ; the dean, pensioner and prebend of Kilmoir being only absent by reason of the distance. A few years after this, in 1384, the church of Lethnot was created a prebendary of the cathedral of Brechin at the request of Sir David Lindsay of Glenesk, the patron of the parish of Lethnot ; and the prebend of Lethnot was declared a canon of the cathedral church of Brechin, with a stall in the choir, and a place in the chapter. In 1429, we find a decree of the bishop and chapter by which it is again declared that there are four dignities in the church, the dean, præcentor, chancellor, and treasurer, who have the precedence of all other canons ; and, in 1435, this decree is confirmed by the signatures of Cuthbert the dean ; Gilbert Brown, præcentor ; Galfred of Aberbrothock, chancellor ; John Lyell, treasurer ; Hugh of Henry, sub-dean ; William of Hawick, prebend of Guthrie, and Thomas Bell, prebend of Kilmore. In August 1435, the bishop and chapter enter into a curious agreement amongst themselves to keep the ornaments of the church in suitable condition. under the penalty—the bishop of 10 merks, a prebend in the like sum, the dean, præcentor, archdean, minister of Lethnot, and minister of Glenbervie in 5 merks each, and every other canon in 40 shillings. In 1474, the parish church of Finhaven was, at the request of the Earl of Crawford, erected into a prebendary of Brechin, and, of course, the clergyman would have a prebend's stall in the cathedral.

There is also in a charter dated in 1469, an allusion to “ a tenement commonly called Catcross, lying on the south side of the city of Brechin, opposite the



road leading to the bridge of Brechin, and situate between the lands of John Cockburn, and from thence to the brow of the hill, and to the south gable of the Little Mill of Brechin." This Catcross had stood somewhere opposite the present South Port, but what description of a cross was so named, cannot now be known.

Connected with the cathedral, there were several chaplainries. A writing dated September 1630, makes mention of the chaplainry of St. James the apostle, but this is the only time we find that chaplainry alluded to. The chaplainry of St. Mary Magdalene undoubtedly belonged to the cathedral of Brechin. This chapel was situated between Montrose and Brechin, close by the present turnpike road, where a burying ground still exists, known as "Maidlen Chapel." The chapel, together with the other property belonging to the altarage, was gifted by James VI. to John Bannatyne in 1587. To the cathedral of Brechin also belonged the Maisondieu chapel, situated in the lane running west from the Timber-market, the property of which was managed by a person styled "the master of the hospital of the Virgin Mary of *Mazendev*." Finally, there was the chaplainry of Caldhame, a chaplainry of no mean endowments. It has been said by some authors, but we think without sufficient authority, that there was a monastery of Red Friars in Brechin. We never could trace out any property which had belonged to such a body, nor is the slightest allusion made to them in any writing that has come under our notice.

The altarages within the cathedral were still more numerous. There was the altarage of "our Lady,"

where mass was ordered to be said daily at the second bell in the morning, "at all seasons in the year," for the souls of Walter, Palatine of Strathearn, and his successors ; and to this altarage several properties in the vicinity of the present Mill Stairs belonged, as well as certain subjects in Montrose, and some property in Dundee. There was also the altar of St. Thomas the Martyr, founded by Sir John Wishart of Pitarrow, Knight, about the year 1442, to which certain revenues belonged, payable out of the lands of Redball, Balfeich and Pittengardner. There was likewise the altarage of "the blessed virgin Katherine," to which a worthy citizen, Robert Hill, in 1453, gave an acre of land at the Crofts, and a tenement within the town ; which example is subsequently followed by other citizens, no doubt no less worthy in the eyes of the church. There was farther, the altar of St. Christopher the martyr, to which a John Smart left certain lands and annual rents in 1458. And there was the altarage of St. Ninian, to which considerable property within the burgh belonged. We likewise have mention made of the altars of St. Nicholas and St. Sebastian, the martyrs, in 1512, and that of All Saints in 1537, of which latter Sir Thomas Finlayson was chaplain in 1547, and which is then described as having been founded by Mr. William Meldrum, archdean of Dunkeld, and to have had belonging to it, amongst other properties, the lands called Scale's Acre, now the principal sites of Panmure Street and Clerk Street.

## CHAPTER IV.

## THE HISTORY OF BRECHIN FROM 1600 to 1670.

THE year 1600 was the first which was held to be commenced in Scotland on the first day of January. Previously, the year was understood to begin on 25th March, or Lady Day. This alteration in the style was enforced by an act of the Estates, and requires to be kept in view in regard to the precise date of any document executed between January and March before 1600. The beginning of this century was also remarkable in Scotland by the accession of James VI., in 1603, to the crown of England, and the consequent transference of the seat of royalty from Edinburgh to London. This change was at first detrimental to Scotland, as it drew off the rich nobles to the court in England, where they spent the ready money which Scotland so much needed. The change was the more felt in consequence of the policy adopted by both nations, which, although then made one kingdom, so far as the title of Great Britain, bestowed by James, could unite them, still remained as hostile and distinct in reality as any two nations could be, each showing its jealousy of the other by enacting that sheep, black cattle, wool, hides, leather and yarn, should be prohibited from exportation and reserved by both nations for internal consumption. The families of Panmure and Southesque seem to have followed the court party at this period, and to have added to their titles of honour in consequence.

Patrick Maule of Panmure, who was born in 1603,

was on 3d August 1646, created a peer by the title of Earl of Panmure, Lord Maule of Brechin and Navar. This noble family has been long and closely connected with Brechin; and, after ranking five Earls in succession, is now represented by the Right Hon. William, Lord Panmure of Brechin and Navar, to whom, as the representative of the ancient family, through a female, the titles were renewed by William the IV. in September 1831. Patrick, the first Earl, was much attached to Charles I., and was present with him at all the battles fought by the king during the civil wars. His Lordship died on 22d December 1661, and was succeeded by his son George, who was an equally keen royalist, and was present at the battles of Dunbar, Inverkeithing and Worcester, in 1650 and 1652. George, the third earl, succeeded his father in 1671. He was a privy councillor to Charles II. and to James VII., and lived till 1686, when he was succeeded by his brother James, the fourth earl. This nobleman had a very checkered life. He was a privy councillor to James VII., but was removed from that office in consequence of opposing the abrogation of the penal laws against popery. In 1689, however, he strenuously supported the cause of James, and he was present, with his brother, Harry Maule of Kellie, at the battle of Sheriffmuir in 1715. After this battle he escaped abroad. He was then attainted of high treason, and by act of Parliament deprived of his lands and titles. His honours and estates were, however, twice offered him if he would take the oaths to the house of Hanover, but he conscientiously declined to do so, and died in exile at Paris on 11th April 1723. His brother, Harry Maule of Kellie, was a

man of a similar stamp, noted for his goodness of heart, and marked by all the characteristics of a cavalier and high bred gentleman. The fifth earl was William, son of Harry Maule of Kellie. William was born about the year 1700, and was created an Irish Peer in 1743 by the title of Earl Panmure of Forth and Viscount Maule of Whitechurch. He represented the county of Forfar for 47 years, and was a general in the army in 1770. In 1764, he purchased the estate of Panmure from the York Buildings Company for £49,157, 18s. 4d, and died in 1782, leaving his estates to his nephew and nameson, the present Lord Panmure, who, through life, has made it his study to patronize every plan calculated for the benefit of Brechin. The family of Panmure is of French extraction. The progenitor of Maule of Panmure came over with William the Conqueror in 1066, and from various chartularies and other documents, the genealogy of the family can be traced downwards from that date to the present time.

The family of Southesque was also ennobled during the seventeenth century, and took an active part in the eventful affairs of that period. The progenitors of this family were anciently proprietors of the lands of Balinhard ; but, in the reign of David II., John de Balinhard obtained a grant of the lands of Carnegie, in the barony of Panmure, and from thence he took his surname. From John descended Duthac de Carnegie, who, in 1409, by a charter from Robert, Duke of Albany, obtained the lands of Kinnaird. He was succeeded by his son, Walter, who joined the Earl of Huntly on behalf of James II., against the Lindsays at the battle of Brechin. His grandson,

John, was slain at the battle of Flodden in Northumberland, fought by James IV. in 1513. This John left a son, Robert Carnegie, who was in great favour with Regent Hamilton, and was by him promoted to be one of the judges of the Court of Session, then to be ambassador to England, and subsequently to be ambassador to France, previously to which last embassy he was knighted. Sir Robert Carnegie died in 1565, leaving by his wife, Margaret Guthrie, six sons and seven daughters, and from some one or other of these sons are descended most of the numerous families in Angus-shire bearing the surname of Carnegie. This Sir Robert Carnegie was succeeded by his eldest son John, a hearty friend to Queen Mary, and John again was succeeded by his brother David, a favourite with James VI., who promoted him to be one of the Lords of Session, a Privy Councillor and a Commissioner of the Treasury. Sir David left four sons, David, John, Robert, and Alexander. David, the son of Sir David, was created Lord Carnegie of Kinnaird by King James VI. on 14th April 1616, and Earl of Southesk by Charles I. on 22d June 1633. From the other sons of Sir David are descended the families of Northesk and Balnamoon. David, the first earl, had four sons, David, James, John, and Alexander, afterwards created Sir Alexander Carnegie of Pitarrow in 1683. Earl David was succeeded in 1658 by his grandson, James, who was a privy councillor to Charles II. Robert, the third earl, succeeded his father in 1669. Before his succession, he resided for some time in France, and was captain of one of the companies of Scots Guards to Lewis XIV. He again was succeeded by his son Charles in 1688, and upon

his decease, James, *his* son, took up the title as fifth Earl of Southesque. This James was attainted of high treason, being concerned in the rebellion of 1715, and having gone abroad, he died at a convent in France in 1729. Sir John Carnegie of Pitarrow, a direct descendant of Earl David, then became representative of the family. Sir John was succeeded by his son Sir James Carnegie, a man of great abilities, who purchased the Kinnaird estates from the York Buildings Company, and was very active in making like purchases for other noblemen similarly situated. This Sir James was succeeded by his son Sir David Carnegie, and upon the decease of Sir David the title and estates opened to the present Sir James Carnegie, who is the sixth baronet of Pitarrow. Thus Sir Alexander Carnegie of Pitarrow (fourth son of Earl David) was succeeded by his son Sir David Carnegie of Pitarrow, who again was succeeded by his son Sir John Carnegie, who came to be of Southesque, and was followed by his son Sir James Carnegie, who was succeeded by Sir David Carnegie, the father of the present Sir James, whose purse is always open when money is required for any charitable purpose in the burgh of Brechin.

It was in 1600 that the trades of Brechin were first incorporated. The seal of cause was issued on 3d October 1600, by Robert Kinnear and Robert Rollock, bailies, David Lindsay, Thomas Lyall, Thomas Ramsay, Matthew Dempster, David Dempster, John Mortoun, George Ferrier, John Leich, Thomas Liddel, elder, Alexander Gellie, David Noray, David Carnegie, and Alexander Clark, councillors, on the petition of David Noray, skinner ; Alexander Gellie,

corder ; John Daw, smith ; John Adam, tailor ; Thomas Schewan, baxter ; William Bruce, webster ; John Langlands, bonnet-maker, and James Fairweather, flesher ; and these tradesmen state, that notwithstanding of Brechin being a royal burgh infest and established with right of guildry and deacons of crafts, yet, partly from oversight, and partly from want of sufficient numbers of master tradesmen, the election of deacons of crafts had been pretermitted, to the great hurt and decay of the crafts, and also to the prejudice of the lieges, by insufficiency of work through lack of trial ; therefore, these tradesmen desire the town council to fortify and maintain the crafts in their rights ; and in consequence the bailies and council, with consent of the "greatest multitude of the commons convenit," grant the prayer of the petition, and ordain that the freemen of the crafts enumerated, should, yearly, twenty days before Michaelmas, choose a deacon from each craft, with collector or deacon convener, officers and other members requisite, and that "in the election of magistrates, the vote of the deacons of the crafts shall be sufficient for the haill members." The bonnet-makers and fleshers have long ceased to be corporations in Brechin. The bonnet-makers, indeed, do not appear ever to have taken up the privileges conceded to them by the seal of cause, and the fleshers, although they formed themselves into a craft, took no part in municipal matters. The other six trades, however, namely, the hammermen, glovers, shoemakers, bakers, weavers and tailors, proceeded in virtue of this seal of cause, to choose deacons from each craft, and the six deacons annually elected a deacon convener, and the



whole took an active, and often an important part in the municipal government of the town.

A few years afterwards, in 1629, the guildry incorporation was *commenced*, for this seems the proper term for a body whose records begin thus: "The said day and several days before, these persons under-named, who were then actual merchants traders within the burgh of Brechin, taking to their consideration, that for themselves and their posterity, and for respect and love that they have to the welfare of the burgh wherein they were living and residing, they should lay out and improve themselves to their utmost, to be example to those who should survive them, to advance the interest of merchandizing, and for that end, the surest mean so to do was, that they should incorporate themselves into a body who were to keep order and rule, and with common consent to make such laudable acts as should be performed by them so convened, and obeyed in all burghs for the weal of each other and the common good of the whole body; ay and until they should attain to that perfection that other royal burghs do brook and possess of late, that is, to have a dean of guild established, under whose jurisdiction they were to be, and to be governed by the laws of the guild." This preamble is followed up by a statement that a loft in the church had been bought for the use of the guildry, and mortcloths (palls) provided to be used at the interment of members and their families, and then a list of the contributors to the guildry is given. For many years afterwards, nothing is entered in the guild records but simply the names and contributions of persons admitted; but, in 1666, there is a long decree engrossed,

from which it appears that the merchants had applied to the convention of burghs, and that that body had appointed commissioners, who met at Brechin on 5th September 1666, and, after hearing parties, ordained "that at the next election of the burgh of Brechin, and yearly at elections, in all time coming, in the said burgh, there shall be strictly kept and observed, without the least change or seeming alteration, these rules following; to wit, that the whole number of the council, magistrates, and others who shall have voice, shall consist of the number of thirteen only, whereof there shall be still eight of the said thirteen such as either has been or are actual trafficking merchants or maltmen who are not incorporate with any other handicraft; and if any be presently on the council under the name of merchants or maltmen, or yet incorporate in any of the trades, or meets with them, that they are hereby obliged, before they can be leeted as councillors for the merchants, to renounce the said trade both before the collector at the meeting of trades, as also in presence of the council, and that the said thirteen shall not leet any to be magistrates but those who are merchants traffickers, and that at the said next election, and in all time coming, there shall be chosen out of the said merchant councillors so leeted, their magistrates, conform to their ancient custom, with ane dean of guild and treasurer, with ane master of the hospital, and the said dean of guild is hereby declared invested and empowered as fully and freely in all respects as any royal burgh of this kingdom, with all the power, rights and privileges that is or can belong thereto in any other royal burgh, as said is; and that of the said thirteen of the council

in all time coming, seven shall be a quorum, the hail councillors being alway cited either personally or at their houses, to keep each council day, with this provision always that the said dean of guild, and his council shall not have power to quarrel, stop or impede any burgess residing within the town, and bearing burden with the rest of the burgh, whether merchants or tradesmen, already made, in their privilege, that is, cannot challenge them, nor force them, or either of them, to enter of new as burgesses, or pay any thing to the guild box." John Donaldson, who was the first contributor, in 1629, to the voluntary association then formed, was the first dean of guild of Brechin. His election is entered in the record on 8th October 1669. Probably some delay had arisen with the convention, and the guildry had not been brought into play till that time. Like other corporations, the guildry is now on the wane.

The authority of the bishop, though considerably abridged, was sufficient to constitute him the principal man of Brechin for the greater part of the seventeenth century. David Lindsay held this diocese from 1619 to 1634, when he was translated to Edinburgh. He is not more indebted to the popular rhymes of the day than are his brother bishops; but, notwithstanding of the insinuations of the reformers and bards of that period, Lindsay appears to have been a man of unspotted virtue and he certainly was a man of undoubted ability.

Bishop Lindsay was one of the most spirited of all the prelates, and hence drew upon himself the especial hatred of the covenanters. It is related of him, that being at one time threatened with personal vio-

lence in case he should read the service-book in his cathedral, he went into the pulpit with a pair of pistols in his belt, and resolutely read out the liturgy ; and his minister having become recusant and refused to read the prayers as appointed in the service-book or Scottish edition of the liturgy, the bishop caused his own servant ascend the desk and read the service regularly. Lindsay was one of the three bishops called to England in 1610, by King James, for the purpose of receiving episcopal ordination from the English bishops, as some doubts existed regarding the purity of that of the Scottish bishops. The bishop of Brechin was on this occasion accompanied by the archbishop of Glasgow and the bishop of Galloway. This of itself shows that bishop Lindsay's reputation stood high in the episcopal church of Scotland, and that it stood equally high with his sovereign. In 1617, when James revisited Scotland after his accession to the crown of England. he caused the chapel of Holyroodhouse be fitted up with an organ, and carpenters were sent from London to assist in the alterations. These workmen brought with them wooden statues of the 12 apostles, finely gilt, to be placed in stalls in the organ gallery. The populace of Edinburgh, however, impressed with the idea that these were the forerunners of idolatry, raised the cry, "The organ came first, now come images, and next comes the mass." The bishop of Galloway, who resided in Edinburgh, as dean of the chapel royal, after advising with the archbishop of Saint Andrews, and the bishops of Aberdeen and Brechin, wrote a letter, which was signed by all these prelates, remonstrating with James against the erection of the sta-

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tues, and though that *sapient* monarch saw meet to countermand the erection of the statues, he, in an angry answer, accused Lindsay and his brethren of ignorance, sarcastically remarking, that they could not distinguish between figures intended for ornament and images intended for worship, and that they would readily admit the figures of devils, lions and dragons, into their churches, although they forbade those of the 12 apostles.

It would appear that King Charles also held Lindsay in high estimation, for he selected this bishop to act when he was crowned King of Scotland, at Holyroodhouse, on 18th June 1633. The ceremonies on this occasion are described with great minuteness, and seem to have attracted no little attention from their near resemblance to popish practices.

Bishop Lindsay, when translated to Edinburgh, met with ruder treatment than he had ever experienced in Brechin. On the Sabbath of 16th July 1637, an order was promulgated from the different pulpits in Edinburgh, for the introduction of the Scottish liturgy on the Sunday following. Accordingly, on 23d July 1637, the dean of St Giles' appeared in his surplice, and began to read the prayers, when an old woman, named Janet Geddes, rising with the tripod on which she had been seated, exclaimed, "Villain, dost thou say mass at my lug," and made the stool fly at the clergyman's head. All was immediately confusion; bishop Lindsay who was present, ascended the pulpit and endeavoured to allay the ferment; he was answered by volleys of sticks, stones and stools; and had it not been for the assistance of the magistrates and influential nobility who

attended this cathedral, in all probability the bishop would have been killed. As it was, Lindsay was much injured, and being then "a corpulent man," and not able to defend himself as he had done in his earlier days, he was carried off with great difficulty in the coach of the Earl of Roxburgh.

Bishop Whiteford, who succeeded Lindsay in the diocese of Brechin, met with pretty much the same treatment in the kirk of Brechin, in November 1637; and in consequence of the irritation of the inhabitants, and the pugnacious spirit displayed by them, Whiteford was obliged to flee from his see, his palace having been plundered, and his wife and children threatened, if not ill used. The burgh records contain no account of these transactions, but we observe that for several weeks about the end of the year 1637, there was no session, "because the minister was in Edinburgh." In 1639, Whiteford fled the kingdom and went to England, where he shortly afterwards died. It has been said, but we have seen no authentic evidence of it, that bishop Whiteford obtained a see in England in 1642, from king Charles, to whose person and fortunes he appears to have been decidedly attached.

The great bell, as the session-house tablet informs us, was recast during bishop Lindsay's incumbency. The session records state, that on 17th August 1630, "there was no session, because the minister was in Dundee agreeing with a skipper to take the great bell to Holland and found her of new, because she was riven." Immediately following this entry we find it recorded that James Peires left £300 to the kirk-session, "£200 thereof to the poor, and the third hundred to help the bell."

A curious agreement is extant, dated in 1637, between bishop Whiteford, "with advice and consent of the chapter of the said bishoprick on the first part," the right honourable Patrick Maule of Panmure, "one of his sacred Majesty's bed-chamber on the second part," and the bailies, dean of guild, and town-treasurer, "with the advyce and consent of the counsell" of Brechin, on the third part. This document states that Mr Maule stood heritably infeft, "by his sacred Majesty" Charles I., with whom he was a great favourite, in the heritable offices of justiciary and constabulary within the city of Brechin, with power and liberty of election of one of the bailies of the burgh, "upon the resignation of Umquhile John, Earl of Mar, who was infeft therein, upon the resignation of Umquhile David, Earl of Crawford, authors to the Laird of Panmure;" but that disputes having arisen about Mr Maule's right, the king had, in 1635, directed a commission to the archbishop of Saint Andrews, and other prelates, for settling of all controversies, and that, in terms of the recommendation of these commissioners, it was agreed, in 1635, that, for the future, one bailie should be chosen by the bishop, one by the Laird of Panmure, and one by the town of Brechin, and that the Laird of Panmure should give a deputation of the offices of justiciar and constable, to the bailie whom he named, "by doing whereof, all controversie betwixt the depute of the justiciar and the town, anent the jurisdiction therein, will be removed; whereas of before there has been still debait and contention, in matters of riot or bluid, the justiciar and his deputes claiming the nomen to them, and the bailies of the town also pre-

tending right thereto." The charter chest of Panmure contains some long processes, in reference to the right to judge and punish in matters of "riot and bluid," claimed by the town and by the justiciar. The present magistrates, we dare say, would be most happy if Lord Panmure would relieve them of the trouble of deciding such "bluid wits" occurring nowadays. This agreement, with some partial interruptions, was acted upon till the forfeiture by the Panmure family in 1715.

The disturbances in Scotland during the reign of Charles, have afforded materials for many volumes. It is not our province to detail these civil wars, but we must glance at them in so far as Brechin was affected by them. Suffice it for us to say, that the despotic attempts of James, and the still more despotic attempts of Charles, to force upon a rude people a mode of worship which certainly bore, in some of its forms, a likeness to the Roman Catholic ceremonies, led to serious wars between the king and the people, which finally terminated in the decapitation of Charles, and the establishment of a miscalled republic, under the dictatorship of Oliver Cromwell. Many and severe were the struggles of parties before matters were thus settled. In March 1638, the solemn league and covenant was subscribed in the Grey Friars Church of Edinburgh, by the great majority of the barons and leading men of Scotland. Copies were immediately transmitted through the land, and were received with exultation in almost every quarter. The bishop of Saint Andrews is reported, on hearing of these proceedings, to have exclaimed, "all we have done these last thirty years, is at once undone." The bishop of



Brechin, then David Strachan, a relation of the Earl of Middleton, and a decided royalist, did not think all was lost. He alone of the Scottish prelates, met the Royal Council at Stirling, and joined the temporal barons in recommending moderate but decided measures to Charles. Bishop Strachan was soon after called to London to assist at the deliberations there, and he is said to have been then equally decided, and to have recommended moderation as regards the church, and the raising of an army in the north, to protect the royal authority, but Charles hesitated and equivocated, and was lost. At this time a Committee of Estates, as it was called, assumed the temporary government of Scotland. In 1643 this body raised a regiment of horse, and "appointed 140 to come out of the sheriffdom of Forfar." Most likely these men were furnished by the landed interest; but subsequently, as we are informed by Spalding, there were "lifted out of the town of Edinburgh 1200 men, out of Dundee 180, out of Brechin and Montrose 110 men;" and these assuredly were raised by the burghes- ses. Presuming Montrose and Brechin to have borne to each other the relative proportion of inhabitants which they now do, this would give rather less than 39 men for Brechin; and holding again that the proportion was just between Brechin and Edinburgh, it would shew that the inhabitants of Brechin were then as one to thirty-one of those of Edinburgh, while at the last census, they were about as one to twenty-one. "Ilk soldier (of this period we are told) was furnished with twa sarks, coat, breeks, hose and bonnet, bands and shoon; a sword and musket, powder and ball for so many, and others, some a

sword and pike, according to order ; and ilk soldier to have six shillings (sixpence sterling) every day, for the space of forty days, of loan silver ; ilk twelve of them a baggage horse worth £50 (scots), a stoup, a pan, a pot for their meat and drink, together with their hire or levy, or loan-money ; ilk soldier estimate to ten dollars."

In 1644, Brechin was made the place of rendezvous for the covenanters, and the Marquis of Argyle is said to have been joined in the September of that year, by the Earl Marischal, the Lord Gordon, Lord Forbes, Lord Frazer, Lord Crichton, and other noblemen who met him at Brechin. In the following years the covenanters again made Brechin their rallying point, and Hurry and Baillie the covenanting generals, assembled their troops at Brechin, in January 1645, with the view of intercepting the Marquis of Montrose, in his descent upon the low countries. Hurry, who was a man of considerable abilities, left Brechin, with six hundred horsemen, one morning early in March, to reconnoitre the royal army, then lying at Fettercairn, but was led into an ambuscade and defeated by Montrose at the planting of Haulkerton, a little beyond the North Water Bridge. The covenanting army, although superior in numbers to the royal army, was deficient in training, and its generals were obliged to waive a battle, and to allow Montrose to proceed westward by the ridge of the Grampians, the covenanters keeping between the Marquis and the low country. The covenanting and royal armies thus both marched westward at the same time, in parallel lines, but at a respectful distance from each other. Montrose, however, prov-

ed himself a second time, an overmatch in policy for Generals Hurry and Baillie. By a stratagem, he passed the Covenanters, came down upon Dundee, sent his baggage and part of his troops on to Brechin in the end of March; and, after plundering Dundee, came with the rest of his army, by forced marches to Arbroath, and then up to Careston, and so away into the Highlands over the Grampians, where he was joined by the baggage and the party which he had despatched to Brechin; and thus he eluded General Baillie who was again in full pursuit after him. The citizens of Brechin are alleged to have been not a little alarmed when the royal troops came to visit them, and apparently they had too much reason. The kirk-session records state, that on 23d March 1645, there was "no preaching, neither collection, by reason of the enemies being in the town;" and on 31st March, there is an entry to the same effect. On 20th July 1645, a similar entry is repeated; and on 16th November of that year, we are informed there was no session in consequence of the absence of the ministers, "and of the enemie, Lodovick Lindsay, approaching near to the town." A minute under the date of 28th June 1647, is still more graphic: "No session, neither collection, by reason the sermon was at the Castle of Brechin for fear of the enemie." Another equally graphic entry occurs in November 1646: "Taken out of the box (says the record) to buy a mortcloth £80; the first mortcloth was plundered by the common enemy and taken away." This "common enemy" seems, however, to have had some friends in Brechin, at least the session records insinuate as much, for on 28th February 1647, "the mini-

ster demands of the whole elders if any of them had drunken James Grahame's good health," which, of course, they all denied. Spalding, in reference to the visit by Montrose's troops in 1645, says "the town's people of Brechin hid their goods in the castle thereof and kirk steeples, and fled themselves, which flight enraged the soldiers; they herried their goods, plundered the castle and haill town, and burned about sixty houses." General Baillie, however, having returned and again made Brechin his rendezvous, the courage of the people was somewhat restored, the more especially when they saw the covenanting general joined in Brechin by the Earl Marischall, the Viscount Fren-draught, the Lord Frazer, the Master of Forbes, the Lairds of Boyne, Echt, Craigievar, Leslie, and most of the gentry in the surrounding country. Fortune was at this time against Montrose and the royal troops; and the glorious victories of the Covenanters were unfortunately tarnished by the delivery of Charles I. to his English subjects in 1647; a transaction which reflected small credit upon either buyer or seller, for, disguise it as we may, the delivery of Charles was little else than a money bargain between England and Scotland; although, we Scotsmen, are fond enough to think that our ancestors were misled by the Southerns. Against this transaction, we are happy to say, the commissioner for the burgh of Brechin stood out, along with the commissioners for Forfar and Tain. We regret we cannot record the names of these worthies, who showed themselves persons of sense and deliberation, when over zeal seems to have blinded the feelings of most men. Montrose, although defeated in 1647, was not a man to be easily

put down. In 1650, he again raised the civil war in Scotland for behoof of Charles II., who then claimed the throne of his ancestors, but the Covenanters met Montrose with spirit, overcame him, and finally beheaded him. No sooner was it known that Montrose was in Scotland for another campaign, than the Estates, the covenanting party, directed David Leslie, their Commander-in-chief, or as Father Hay, a keen royalist, was pleased to designate him, "Argyle's Postilion," to gather together, at Brechin, all those parties of horse and foot which, since the termination of the first campaign, had been dispersed over the country for its protection. During the wars of Montrose, therefore, it would appear that Brechin was esteemed the key of the covenanting army, and its situation immediately on the line between the Highlands and Lowlands, and commanding the only bridge then in existence over the Southesk, seems to have rendered it of importance in such a civil warfare. The burgh was much annoyed by this distinction, which rendered it an object to both parties. For several weeks in the end of August and during the months of September and October 1651, there were "no sermon, collection or session, by reason both the ministers were absent, the English forces lying in garison round about this town and a garison in the castle of Brechin," so the kirk records bear; and they further inform us, that on 2d July 1651, there was "no session, neither sermon this Wednesday, by reason all within this burgh was called to go to Aberbrothock to assist them against the pursuing enemy by sea;" although in what manner the landsmen of Brechin were so to assist is not explained.

Again, in November, we are told there was "no sermon this Wednesday, be reason twelff hundreth English were in the town, Tuesday all night, and on Wednesday till the time of Divine Service was past."

The disputes which thus distracted the kingdom, necessarily caused agriculture to be neglected, and the country to be infested with vagrants. In 1615, John Mill, kirk-officer, and bailie John Liddle, are enjoined by the bishop and session daily to go through the town and expel the "vagabonds and stranger beggars;" and in subsequent years, these enactments are renewed in the records of the session of Brechin. Similar proceedings were adopted in most other parishes. The natural consequence of this state of things was, that the poor were compelled to feed on filthy garbage, and became infected with disease, which rose from the lowest to the highest, and raged in various shapes in different parts of Scotland, for several years, about this period. In 1604, the Scottish Parliament was obliged to meet at Perth to avoid the plague then raging in Edinburgh, and the disease seems to have gone on increasing and travelling northwards for many years afterwards. Great frosts and snow which occurred in the seed time of 1640, still farther tended to increase the evil. Brechin was visited with the pestilence in 1647. The session records, after informing us that there was a public fast on 4th April, state "there was no session, neither collection from the 4th April, by reason the Lord inflicted the burgh of Brechin with the infecting sickness until the 7th November;" and even on the 7th November, when a collection is made, there is no session by reason the minister and elders are afraid to keep company, or as

the records of the *Landward* session bear, "be reason the moderator and remanent sessions feared to convene under one roof." Indeed, the regular meetings of the session scarce seemed to have recommenced till 26th December 1647, although all business was not interrupted, for the records inform us, that "when it pleased the Lord that the sickness began to relent there were some persons contracted and married;" such is life. *Cleansers* were at this time brought from Edinburgh, who, if we may judge from some of the entries in the session records, were not men of the best character, but what these cleansers did we have no means of ascertaining. Other parts of the session minutes shew, that amidst this scene of death, there were scenes of folly. The terror of the disease seems to have extended to the country. The records of the parish of Menmuir of 11th April 1647, bear that "because of the forth-breaking of the plague in Brechin, the minister preached in the fields, therefore no collection;" and from that date till 26th September, a similar entry is made every Sabbath. A stone built into the wall of the church-yard of Brechin, records that in 1647, no less than six hundred died of the plague in Brechin in the course of four months. The inscription is comparatively modern in point of workmanship, but most probably has been copied from an older stone. It runs thus:—

1647.

Luna quater crescens,  
Sexcentos peste peremptos;  
Disce mori,—vidit.  
Pulvis et umbra sumus.

Close by the stone is another, placed between double

columns, supporting a Saxon arch, and recording in bold *alto relievo* lettering, the death in that year of Bessie Watt, spouse of *bailzie* David Donaldson, and their daughters, Elspet and Jean, all of whom most probably also died of the plague. The inscription is in very simple language: "Heir lyes Bessie Watt, spovs to David Donaldson, bailzie of Brechin, and Elspet Donaldson, and Jean Donaldson, their Dochters, 1647." From a sasine found amongst some old papers belonging to the town, it appears that, in 1633, bailie Donaldson and Bessie Watt, were owners of the house now belonging to Mr Thomas Ogilvy, on the High-Street, the adjoining house, now occupied by Mr John Ogilvy, having then belonged to Lord Airly, the head of the clan Ogilvy, to whom it yet pays feu-duty.

In 1634 the Southesk suddenly subsided, from what cause was not known, at least is not reported; but the fact is recorded and imputed as a sign of the troubles which then hung over the kingdom. Tradition has it, that the bed of the river was wholly dry for 24 hours, except at the Ee-o'-the-weil, and Stannachee, and that the water gradually subsided, and as gradually returned. Most probably the circumstance had arisen from a great drought. The subsequent winter was one of severe storm, and the greater part of the shipping on the east coast of Scotland was destroyed.

The town council possess few records of this period, but the kirk-session have several old volumes relating to this time. On the fly leaf of one of them, there is the following note: "The town register evidencing that, in James Watt, reader and



session-clerk, his time, the town and landward kept session weekly; and for the landward collections an elder was appointed, for receiving and keeping the same, which was distributed by the direction of the minister and remanent elders, to the landward poor. Upon the 20th June 1624, the minister and landward elders, taking into their serious consideration, that the landward elders could not conveniently attend the town-session weekly, by reason of the distance of place, and their urgent and necessary labour and affairs at home, particularly in the oat and bear seed time, in summer season for casting, winning and leading on, and in the harvest time: Therefore, after mature deliberation, resolved, and thought it expedient and most necessary to separate. Whereupon, it was condescended and agreed by the minister and elders, to keep the landward session on the Sabbath day, betwixt sermons, and to have a box for keeping the collections, and a register containing their acts, collections, penalties and processes and distributions. The book from the year 1624, containing these particulars above expressed, was taken away by the *common enemy*, and this book, *de novo*, begun on the 3d of March 1644." The Sessions thus disjoined, continued separate till about 1708, when Mr Willison, then clergyman, seems to have taken considerable trouble in getting the burgh and landward sessions again united. The session have another volume, commencing in 1615 and ending in 1677, containing the "acts and ordinances of the kirk and session of Brechin," and thus, amongst the different volumes, there is a pretty correct report of the proceedings in the session. In these volumes there are many curi-

ous entries. John Duncanson, Baxter, in 1619, applies to have "an act of slander against all such as should object any thing to him concerning Marion Marnow, a witch, that was burnt, which the session refused, till farther advisement." The same year the session resolved that for every burial in the body of the church between the pillars, there should be paid £20, and in the aisles and toofalls £10, "all to the use of the Kirk." In 1620, application is made for assistance in building a bridge over Noran water, at Courtfoord, when the session appoint a collection to be made through the town, "both to help that bridge, and the Pow Bridge betwixt Kinnaird and Auld Montrose, which our sovereign, King James the Sixth, caused lay over for leading of his Majesty's provision to Kinnaird, in 1617." Hence we may infer, that James that year visited David Carnegie at Kinnaird, whom he had the year previous raised to the peerage, by the title of Lord Carnegie of Kinnaird. On 13th December 1620, we have this entry, "given to the session by John Donaldson and his brother, David Donaldson, at their return from their sea voyage, £4 4s., to be bestowed on the poor." From similar subsequent entries, we learn that the voyage was to London. These events are all during the time that episcopacy was the form of worship, recognised by the State.

The session records of 15th April 1650, state that the town and landward elders being convened after sermon, and it being shewn by the minister that Mr John Fyfe refused to take the charge, to be an actual minister in this congregation, "they all being enquired whom they would nominate to that charge, they

all *una voce*, after due deliberation, nominated Master Laurence Skinner, to be conjunct minister with Mr William Raitt." We have not observed any previous mention of Mr Fyfe in the records, but whether there is such entry or not, this minute proves that the session then exercised the right of choosing the minister. The volume of records, commencing in 1615, gives a somewhat different version of the matter. There it is stated, that on 13th March, 1650, the minister, provost, bailies, council, and others within the burgh, and commissioners direct from the landward session, being convened for nominating and calling an actual minister to this vacant kirk, and that be reason, Mr John Fyfe refuses to embrace the charge, all in one voice did nominate Mr Laurence Skinner, minister at Navar, to be their minister, and colleague with Mr William Raitt ;" and on 24th May, the same record tells us Mr Skinner "was heartily received by the magistrates and others of the parish, as their minister." The magistrates appear always to have formed constituent members of the session, at this time, and every two or three years a list of the elders and deacons is made up, commencing with the provost and two bailies. Hence, the acts and ordinances of the session, have much the character of the proceeding of a lay court, the magistrates carrying with them to the session, their magisterial powers, and sending to *ward* or jail, persons who did not implement the orders of the session. On the one hand, the session then assumed powers which are now vested wholly in the town council, and we find them repeatedly admitting individuals to the benefit of the hospital, and making a

regulation, that applicants for this privilege shall be both examined and catechised publicly before the Session, and that the person who has best insight in the grounds of religion shall be preferred : this entry is dated 24th November 1646. On the other hand, the absence of the magistrates was deemed sufficient reason, for not holding a Session ; thus 21st May, 1662, " no session holden this day, by reason the magistrates went immediately after sermon, to bring in the Trinity fair," and similar entries frequently occur. Amongst other crimes, which then engaged the attention of the dignitaries of the kirk, Sabbath-breaking frequently occurs ; some are punished for selling *ale*, others for winnowing corn, a few for frolicksome behaviour, and a good many for " yolking their carts, both in the burgh and landward," and going " to the moss." Where this moss was situated is not mentioned ; but apparently it had been at some distance, as the offenders are occasionally accused of commencing their labour before twelve o'clock of Sunday night ; and it may thus be inferred, that they wished to have a long day for bringing home their *eldin*. A serious discussion is entered upon the minutes of the session in December 1649. One woman complains to the session against another for scandalizing her, by calling her a witch ; and the party complained upon undertakes to prove that the complainer is actually a witch. Witnesses are called. One person swears that the suspected witch rubbed the witness' side, and then followed such a pain, that the witness could not bow herself for weeks ; another, that his mother having refused to give the witch a little butter, could make no more butter that season ;

a third, that the witch spoiled her *brewsts*, and others, that a suspicious dog kept company with the witch, who was over-kind to the animal. The session sent the matter to the presbytery, and as we hear no more of it, we flatter ourselves that they gave the silly affair the go-by. The trial of witches was, however, common in this part of the country ; and the minutes of the kirk-session of Menmuir, of 2d and 23d December 1649, tell us that there was " no lecture this week because the minister was attending the committee appointed by the provincial assembly, for the trial of witches and charmers in their bounds." Tradition also informs us that unfortunate beings did suffer in Brechin for this imaginary crime ; and the hollow where the Gas-Work is now erected, bears the name of the Witch Den ; digging in which, some years ago, a gentleman found a quantity of ashes mixed with human bones, and a piece of iron chain, tending to confirm the tradition, that witches had been burned in this place. Amongst the *archives* of the town, is preserved an instrument called the witch's branks, an iron frame made to embrace the head, with a piece shaped like an arrow contrived to enter the mouth and prevent the criminal from speaking, and the whole fastening behind with a padlock, which might have been easily attached to a stake or a building. We should be truly thankful that the march of intellect has now banished such superstitions from Brechin. Amongst other minutes in the records of the session of 1650, there is one illustrative of the price of books in these days ; stating that the session had " given to Catherine Williamson, to buy a New Testament, 16s." scots, of course, but almost then equal to sterling money

of the present time. In October 1654, there was a collection "for helping to build the bulwark of Aberbrothick;" and in October 1657, a similar collection for building the shore of Montrose; while the bridge of Tayock got an aid in October 1660. All these events, for the proof of which we are indebted to the kirk-session records, being subsequent to 1640, of course, took place while presbyterianism was predominant.

On 26th January 1662, the records of session state, "this day it was shown by the minister, that it is appointed by authority, that no session be kept within this land till afterwards a way and liberty be opened and granted by authority hereafter; but only to keep session for writing up the collection and distributing charity to the poor." This entry is explained by another occurring on 3d August 1662, which says there was "no session holden this day by reason it was the first Sabbath of the bishop his entry, and preached this day." Episcopacy was thus again re-established by Charles II.; and the ministers and elders went on under the bishop, in pretty much the same style as they had done during his absence. An elder is punished and deprived of his office, for permitting piping and dancing in his house on a Sabbath, and "having many more at his daughters marriage than was appointed;" others are punished for less peccadilloes; and in April 1670, there is a collection made to assist the inhabitants of Dundee in re-building their shore.

The different clergy of the period embraced in this chapter seemed to have vied with each other in gifts to the church, probably with the view of purchasing the

good opinion of their hearers. In 1643, as a tablet affixed to the wall of the session-house informs us, "Mr Alex. Bisset minr. at Brechin, gifted a silver cup for the cummunion table," and in 1648, "Mr. Wm. Rait, minr. at Brechin" made a similar gift. These silver cups, presented by presbyterian clergymen, are still in use. The same authority tells us that in "1655 Mr. Laurence Skinner, minister at Brechin, gave the church's great Bible;" and that in "1665, Daud B. of Brechin gifted the orlidge on the steepel," a clock which, we believe, continued to mark time to the people of Brechin till pulled down, when the cathedral was repaired thirty years ago. But the greater dignities of the church were not the only benefactors of it. The tablet referred to informs us that in "1660, John Mil, church-officer, gave three tinne basins for serving in administration of the sacrament," which basins continue to be so employed at the present time, and are interesting as illustrative of the state of popular feeling in 1660, each having a pretty good likeness of Charles I. embossed in the centre. Round the margin of each plate or basin, there is an inscription to this effect:—"Pelvis Ecclesiæ Brechineensi Dedicata Ut Eidem In Administratione Sacramentorum Inserviat, Anno 1660." The inscription varies slightly on the different plates. A rose, impressed on the margin of each basin, would lead us to infer that the basins are of English workmanship.

The records of the burgh for this period, as already said, are extremely scanty, arising no doubt from the unsettled state of the times; but amongst the few records which do exist, we find one dated

26th June 1656, "By his Highness' council in Scotland," bearing that the council having received good information that the town of Brechin was, in former times, the seat where the commissary court for the shires of Forfar and Kincardine respectively were kept, and that it is the most convenient place for the two shires; therefore, the council directed "that from henceforth the commissary court of the said shires respectively be kept at Brechin, aforesaid, until farther orders." This document is signed "Broghill, president;" and was issued during the Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell, when the civil administration of Scotland was committed to a council of state, composed of nine persons, seven Englishmen and two Scotsmen, of which council Lord Broghill was president. The name of the commissary of this period is not extant; but as most of the commissariots were then filled by English military officers, most likely the commissariot of Brechin was put under similar command. When the commissary court of Brechin was abolished in 1824, and the duties of it transferred to the sheriff, the parishes of Strachan, Glenbervie and Caterline were the only places in Kincardineshire, which were connected with the commissariot of Brechin.

The bridge of Brechin was repaired in 1684, in aid of which, a collection was made in the different parishes in the diocese of Brechin.

During the seventeenth century, the exports of Brechin consisted chiefly of malt and half-tanned hides; and to almost every property in the burgh belonged either a kiln and coble, or a tan-pit. The other manufactures were few, and such only as supplied the most pressing wants of the immediate neighbour-



hood ; bonnets, shoes, blankets and coarse cloth. Altogether the state of the people seems to have been very uncomfortable, deprived of the support which they formerly received from the church, distracted by civil wars, and without manufactures, and on many occasions without food.

We must, however, bring this long chapter to a close. The period of time embraced in it is not great, but this period, from 1600 to 1670, witnessed events of no small importance to Scotland ; the accession of James VI. to the English throne ; the succession, dethronement and death of his son Charles I ; the protectorate of Oliver Cromwell ; the succession of Cromwell's son, Richard, to, and retirement from the same proud eminence ; and the recal of Charles II. to the throne of his ancestors ; the abolition of Episcopacy ; the establishment of Presbyterianism ; and the restoration of the authority of the bishops.

The most remarkable literary character of this period, connected with Brechin, was Thomas Dempster. Of his family and early life, nothing certain has been preserved, except that he was a student at the university of Cambridge. Being a zealous catholic, he went to France about the time of the reformation, and obtained a professor's chair at Paris, "when" says Boyle, " though his business was to teach a school, he was more ready to draw his sword than his pen." In consequence of his quarrelsome disposition, he was obliged in a short time to return to England, where, it is said, he married a woman of uncommon beauty, with whom he soon after went again to Paris. Here the lady, vain of her charms, while walking the public streets, exhibited more than an ordinary portion of her

breast and shoulders, which attracted such a mob, that she and Dempster were both nearly trodden to death. Embracing the reformed religion, Dempster obtained, by competition, a professorship in the university of Nimes, and soon after a vacant chair and a large salary in the university of Pisa. But here his comfort and usefulness were suddenly marred by the conduct of his "beautiful wife," who eloped with one of his scholars. Leaving Pisa, Dempster proceeded to Bologna, and was appointed professor of Greek, in the university of that town, in which situation he continued till his death in 1625. Chambers describes Dempster as "a learned professor and miscellaneous writer, born at Brechin, in the county of Angus." During his life he enjoyed an extensive reputation; his published works were many and various; but the principal of them was an "Ecclesiastical History of Scotland" in "XIX beuks." Speaking of him as an author, an eminent critic says "it would perhaps be difficult to point out another Scottish writer of his time, who had the same intimate acquaintance with classical antiquity."

## CHAPTER V.

## THE HISTORY OF BRECHIN FROM 1670 to 1700.

Our further labours will be so far lightened, that we have now the council records of the burgh to refer to for our guide. The earliest existing volume of these records commences in 1672, and is thus titled by the clerk: "Heir followis the acts off the Toun Council off the Citie off Brechin, begun ano 1672: Balyiess then Geo. Steill, Da. Donaldson, Da. Liddell." This is succeeded by the following pious inscription: "Incepto Libro Sit Laus et Gloria Christo, Gloria perpetua sit tribuenda Deo." The tradition is, that in 1745, the Highland troops used the court-room as a guard-room, broke open the presses, and destroyed all the books and papers which they found there; and that the books which do exist previous to that date, were only saved by being in the town clerk's private house, while the other documents saved were preserved by being deposited in a press in the church steeple. Certain it is, that the oldest *book* of records belonging to the burgh, is a record of instruments of sasine commencing in 1648.

The volume of the town council records alluded to, commences with a minute, intimating that the convention of royal burghs had resolved to protect Brechin, against certain encroachments on the common muir, made by the lairds in the neighbourhood. The entry almost immediately following this, is one appointing a committee of the council to go to Arbroath, and there to treat with the other commis-

sioners from Dundee and Montrose, "for a settlement with Robert Carnegy of Newgate, anent his encroachment on their common lands." The lands of Newgate still continue as much a subject of debate to the good folks of Arbroath, as the lands of the Common Muir do to the citizens of Brechin, and 150 years do not seem to have much changed the tempers of parties interested in these respective lands.

A minute of rather an inhospitable nature is found amongst the first records in the volume. It is entitled "an act against keeping of strangers by the inhabitants;" because, as the act states, "vagabonds and outcountry people" came in their poverty to reside in the burgh, and swallowed up the charity which properly belonged to the poor of the place. It is to be feared that Montrose's wars had sent too many poor vagabonds to wander the country at that time.

About the same period, there occurs an act of the town council curiously illustrative of the then state of the country. This act bears that the magistrates and council finding it has proved greatly to the disadvantage of the town of Brechin, "and has ruined the change-houses," and prejudiced other trades, in this, that strangers have not been encouraged these many years past, to frequent this place in their road south and north for the want of horses to furnish them with; therefore the council ordains a postmaster to be chosen yearly who is to be bound to keep two horses of "furtie pundis price the piece," and who is to be allowed "twelve pennies of ilk pund of hire from everie other person who shall hire horses within the town," and have also the privilege of pressing horses accustomed to be hired for the use of strangers. John

Hall is immediately after named postmaster. The office appears to have been profitable, for, in 1674, it is exposed for sale by public roup.

The first election of councillors, of which there is any record, is that of 26th September 1673. We have made a list of the whole members of the town council of Brechin from that period downwards, and to this list, which will be found in the appendix, we beg to refer. The council of 1673 proceeded, according to the practice of the *good old times*, first to elect themselves, then to set a leet of six persons for bailies, "of the whilk number (the record bears) my Lord Bishop of Brechin has named and appointed David Donaldson, younger, to continue and officiate as his lordship's bailie from Michaelmas ensuing, 1673, to Michaelmas 1674, and have referred the remanent five persons to ane noble earl, George, Earl of Panmure, to nominate and choose one of the saids persons as his lordship's bailie and justiciar." A treasurer is then elected, and the minute of that day closes. On 30th September the council are assembled, when there is presented a commission and presentation granted to John Liddell, factor and commissioner for the Earl of Panmure, nominating him, "the said noble earl, his bailie and justiciar-depute the said year." By "plurality of voices," the council then "nominated and appointed David Liddell to continue and officiate as town's bailie; "and (as the minute records) the bailies, council and dean of guild have nominated Andrew Allan as dean of guild for said year." Thereafter, an hospital-master is elected, and the minute closes by a statement, that "the said day the court being fenced, the bailies for the last year did demit their

office." Upon the 3d October following, a head court of the burgh is held, and the following entry made : " The roll of the whole inhabitants being called and diverse being absent, therefore unlawed ilk absent in the sum of five punds money, and ordains letters and executorials to be direct against them therefore." No other business *ever* appears to have been done at the annual head court of the burgh of Brechin, which was thus nothing more than a mere formality ; for, as the names of the absentees were never entered, no fines could be enforced against them.

The guildry record of the same period, 13th October 1673, bears that " Andrew Allan, of new chosen dean of guild, did compear and did accept of his office;" a treasurer is then elected by the guildry from a leet of two persons named by the guildry, and the minute closes thus : " Nomina Concilij Gildi, John Liddell, late dean gild, James Henderson, treasurer, David Donaldson, younger, David Liddel." It will be remarked that Donaldson was the bailie named by the bishop ; John Liddell the bailie named by Lord Panmure ; David Liddell the town's bailie, and James Henderson a councillor of the burgh ; so that the town council seem to have had the whole sway in the guildry at that time, although by act of the guildry in October 1671, it was specially appointed that the council should consist of five members, the dean of guild, the box-master, and other three persons, " who shall be nominate, with common consent, by plurality of voices out of the said fraternity" of guildry. The same influence predominates during the whole period embraced in this chapter of our history ; in 1683, Robert Strachan is received brother guild,

gratis, at the request of my Lord Bishop, then provost of Brechin ; and, in 1698, the provost and bailies are named *before* the dean in his own court. The proceedings of the guildry, during the period alluded to, are chiefly confined to the regulation of their own internal affairs. On the 9th February 1676, Christian Wilson, daughter of Charles Wilson, was admitted a guild *brother*, or as the minute more properly phrases it, "a free person" of the guildry. In 1697, this lady got a husband, John Guthrie, and he was gallantly received a member of the guildry in respect of the payment formerly made by his wife. The right of sitting in the front seat of the loft in the church of Brechin occupied no little of the time of this incorporation. In October 1676, the guildry "have thought fit that there be one nominate to sit in the principal place of the loft in the church, and for that end, John Skinner is appointed, and failing of him, John Allan, to sit in that seat *for the year to come*," a pretty long sederunt. Three years afterwards this is remedied by appointing the treasurer to enjoy that proud eminence "ilk Lord's day," but the treasurer is enjoined to "come in timeously before the last bell rings." If we may trust the church records of this period, the sway exercised gave a man little choice whether he should go to church "timeously" or not; for it would appear, if he had not attended, he would have been exposed both to the spiritual ban of the clergy and the temporal power of the civil magistrate. At the beginning of the volume of records of the session commencing in 1678, are engrossed the "acts, statutes and ordinances according to the rules set down in the old register anno 1615, and others added." Some of these

acts are severe enough. "Imprimis, (says the record) it is statute and ordained that all, both in town and landward, shall repear to the church on the Lord's day to hear God's word; whosoever shall be found absent without a relevant excuse, shall pay for the first fault 5s. scots, and so *toties quoties* doubling it, with their *public* repentance." It is also ordered that all within the town shall répair to the "hearing of sermon on the week day, and on Thursday at the exercise, under the penalty of 40 pennies, dispensing with the servants, their absence on these days." To enforce these rules, the collectors of charity were to go through the town during the time of service and take down the names of offenders. Many other rules equally severe are enacted, and amongst the rest, "It is statute and ordained that whosoever shall be found drunk shall be admonished by the elders *pro primo*, and if they continue in that sin, shall be delated to the session, and then to be charged to appear there to acknowledge their offence, and shall be punished according to the discretion of the minister and elders both in purse and private repentance; and if they continue in that sin, they shall satisfy publicly." These enactments, be it remembered, were made during the prevalence of Episcopacy, for it was not till 1640 that Presbyterianism was predominant, and Episcopacy was restored in 1662.

Brechin was burned in 1672. The presbytery records of 21st March 1672, have this entry on the subject: "This day the magistrates of the burgh of Brechin appeared, presenting the sad and deplorable condition of the distressed people in this town through great losses by a devouring fire on the third of this



instant, betwixt one and two after mid-night, whereby their dwelling-houses, insight plenishing, corn in barns and barn yards, were destroyed, and supplicated a recommendation to the several kirks within the presbytery for charitable support, which was granted." Subsequently, these records tell us that the sums collected were as follows:—"Marietoun, £8, 10s. 6d.; Craig, £13, 6s. 8d.; Montros, £66, 13s. 4d.; Logie, £10, 13s. 4d.; Dun, £9, 6s. 8d.; Stracathro, £17, 1s. 6d.; Edzell, £10; Lethnot, £8, 8s.; Navar, £4, 10s.; Menmuir, £20, 1s. 6d.; Fearn, £12, 13s. 4d.; Othlo, £5, 10d.; Carrotstoun, £3. No collection at Farnell by reason there is no minister there; Kynnaird only deficient." These collections serve to give an idea of the respective wealth of these different parishes in 1672. The council records give no direct account of this fire. On a loose slip of paper, now bound up with the council book, there is an entry under date 6th November 1672, bearing that "the council taking to consideration the condition of those who had the loss by the late fire, and that there are some that have lost their subjects," therefore ordered an accompt to be taken of the money collected and distributed; "and ordains that yet there shall be the sum of four-score punds distributed amongst those who have not houses burned, at the distribution of the bailies and council, and the superplus to be bestowed for rebuilding the houses." On 18th May 1674, we find an entry in the council book renewing the order for an account of the money "given for charity by this burgh and parish, and several other of our good neighbours for the help of those who were sufferers in the late sad accident of burning;" and in

June following, the accompt is given in bearing that there had been collected from the burghs of Dundee, Forfar, Arbroath and Montrose, and the presbyteries of Dundee, Forfar and Brechin, and the presbytery of the Mearns, £479, 6s. scots. The session records of Arbuthnott state that, on 2d June 1672, a sum of £6 scots had been collected at the kirk door of that parish for the benefit of the persons in the town of Brechin, who had suffered by fire. From these entries we may conclude that the fire had been purely accidental, but that it had done considerable damage. And as we find the council employed at different times down to 1676, in regulating the distribution of the money collected, it would appear that they had found no small difficulty in pleasing all parties in regard to it.

A number of the entries in the burgh records of the seventeenth century refer to the expenses which the burgh incurred by sending a commissioner to parliament; and occasionally differences seem to have existed between the representative and the constituents, as to the sufficiency of the sums remitted for his support. Other matters, however, also engrossed the council, matters which would now seem as strange as paying a salary to a member of Parliament; and not a few acts and ordinances were then made by the town council of Brechin, which would scarce be observed by the burgesses of the present day. Thus, in 1674, it is enacted that no person shall put any of their male children, above ten years of age, to any school without or within the burgh, except the grammar-school, under the pain of £20 scots.

The gentleman whose school was thus fostered by a penalty was Mr John Dempster, a great favourite with the then town council. In September 1674, Mr John Dempster was appointed by the bishop to supply his charge as minister, upon which the council nominated Mr James Dempster assistant schoolmaster ; and, in the June following, Mr James Dempster is promoted to be principal schoolmaster ; Lord Panmure, then patron of the præceptory of Maisondieu, having presented him to the emoluments arising from that endowment.

But while matters went on thus smoothly with the heads of the church, one of the inferior officers gave the council no small annoyance. Robert Strachan, kirk-officer, presumed to "vilipend and abuse the bailies," and to declare that he cared not a ——— for all the bailies of Brechin. An act of council is therefore made on 22d March 1675, embodying all this in the *plainest* language, and a copy of the act is sent to the bishop, Mr Robert Lawrie, who lived in Edinburgh, and officiated as one of the ministers of Edinburgh. My lord bishop immediately writes back to his "much honoured and very good friends, the magistrates and town council of Brechin," condoling with them on the enormity of the offence committed, and authorizing them to dismiss the offender. The council accordingly nominated James Liddell, and presented him as kirk-officer to the session ; when the minister, Mr Laurence Skinner, declared his willingness to receive Liddell, if it was the bishop's pleasure, upon seeing a confirmation of the nomination under the bishop's own hand ; and yet, withal, he declared that he could not receive him presently

as kirk-officer, because it being a church office, he humbly conceived that before Liddell be actually admitted to officiate, it was expedient that his election be authorised by some one clothed with church power for that end ; and in this resolution Mr Skinner is confirmed by the "commissioners direct from noble-men heritors, and other inferior heritors ;" but on 28th April, a very tart letter, written by the bishop "with his own hand," is produced, confirming all that the magistrates had done, "whereupon Mr Laurence Skinner protested against the sudden procedure of the bailies and town council, &c.," which protestation, however, "the bailies prohibited the clerk of the session to insert in the town session book, and that, under the highest pains," but Mr. Skinner, "commanded the clerk to insert it, the next Lord's day, in the landward session book, which was done accordingly, and there it is extant," says that record. We suspect Mr Patrick Brokas the session-clerk, who appears to have been an intelligent and pains-taking man, had also been a prudent one, and while complying so far with the injunctions of the minister, had had the terror of the bishop before his eyes, as he cuts short Mr Skinner's protest with an "et cetera." Strachan was accordingly discharged, but behold ! in July my lords of the privy council take a different view of the matter, and Strachan is then restored by the town council "conform to the will of the foresaid decreet of the lords of the privy council, letters of horning following thereupon and charge given to the magistrates." Strachan is mentioned as continuing kirk-officer in 1684.

The tolbooth of the burgh has always been a source

of annoyance to the council. In October 1675, one debtor escaped, and the council were in fears about other two. They therefore appointed the jail to be watched night and day by two "armed able men," to be furnished alternately by the incorporations of the smiths, glovers, bakers, shoemakers, weavers, tailors, merchants, maltmen and wrights. In 1683, a debtor of some note is recorded as offering the town officers considerable sums to let him go free; and therefore the council very wisely apply to have him *transported* to some other burgh. Besides the town officers, the magistrates of that time possessed an official who has since been dispensed with—the town's piper—and to that office we find a John Wyslie admitted on 20th June 1688, to whom there is assigned a salary of ten merks yearly, "by and attour the good will of the town's people." Wyslie was discharged in January 1691, because he did not perform the duties of his office, in going regularly through the city morning and evening, but in 1698 he is again restored, likely upon promise of better behaviour. The person who held this office of town's piper about 1750, was wont, after his perambulations through the town to rouse the inhabitants from their couches, to terminate his journey opposite the principal inn, where he blew his chanter till mine host of the Swan gave him a "morn-in," which, we have understood, was generally ample, and the glass was duly emptied by the piper with a significant nod to the landlord, and a hearty "heer's till him"—both gentlemen were out in the "fourty-five." The office seems gradually to have fallen into abeyance, the town withdrew the salary, the incorporations withheld their grants, the inhabitants became

chary of giving money for such music, and towards the close of the eighteenth century the piper ceased to play ; the latest notice which we find of the musician being the grant of a coat for him by the guildry in 1796. This last of the pipers was named Low. He lived at the Gallowhill, or where the North Port Distillery is now situated. He discharged the duties of his office by playing through the town in the morning at 5 o'clock, and in the evening at 7 o'clock, while then, as now, the great bell was rung during summer at 6 o'clock morning, and during the winter at 7 o'clock morning, and each evening, at 8 o'clock ; the piper serving as the precursor of the bellman, or a warning for those who preferred early hours.

The crop of 1674 appears to have been deficient. In March 1674, the session records tell us there was "intimate a day of humiliation to be kept through the whole presbytery the next Lord's day, by reason of the great storm of snow and frost lying on the ground in the spring time of the year, when the seed ought to be sown in the ground." In 1675, there appears also to have been a bad harvest, for on the 25th July of that year, a fast is proclaimed, "first, to mourn for the contempt and disobedience of the gospel and holy ordinances ; second, for the great increase and prevalence of atheism and profanity in the land ; third, for the sinful undervaluing the great blessing of peace so long enjoyed under his Majesty ; and fourth, because the Lord is angry with this land, threatening the destruction of the fruits of the ground, necessary provision for man and beast, and that by a long continued drouth, threatening the plague of famine." In November 1675, the town council approve of a de-

duction from the treasurer's account of £52 scots, lost by the sale of 24 bolls of meal "that was bought up by the town, and was sold out to the poor people the last summer, during the time of the scarcity of victual." The price of the meal is not mentioned. The crop of 1681 was also deficient, if we may believe a proclamation issued by the privy council, and noticed in the session-book, enjoining a fast, because, "first, of abuse of peace and plenty, and contempt of the gospel; next, because many have departed from the communion of the national kirk; thirdly, because the Lord's wrath is manifested by afflicting the land with a long scorching drought, making the heavens as brass, and the earth as iron, binding up the clouds, threatening thereby to consume the fruits of the ground, necessary provision for sustaining the life of man and beast; lastly, to pray for a blessing to the ensuing parliament, which is to sit down at Edinburgh, 28th July next." This proclamation was issued by Charles the Second! Mr. Laurence Oliphant, writer in Edinburgh, was then agent for the town; and in August 1681, that gentleman craves the council to send him 8 or 10 bolls meal, in part payment of his account—the scarcity in Edinburgh probably having reduced Mr. Oliphant to this necessity.

Amongst other devices fallen upon by Charles II. for raising money, was the farming the duties then imposed as excise. The records of Brechin state, that on 13th May 1676, bailie David Donaldson was authorized to offer for the excise of the burgh for that year, the sum of a thousand merks, scots, "and, if he find it convenient, to go the length of twelve hundred merks," equal to £66. 13s. 4d., sterling. It is not

stated whether the offer of the burgh was accepted ; but that year, and for some years afterwards, " a month and a quarter's supply" is ordered to be raised " in lieu of excise," from which we conclude some arrangement had been made to save the burgh from the guagers of that period.

In 1676, for the first time, we find the collector or convener, and the deacons of crafts, called to vote on the election of the town's bailie. When the council became possessed of the right to elect all the magistrates, the trades also had the privilege to vote on the leet set by the council for provost and bailies, a right which the deacon convener and deacons enjoyed, till the reform act of 1833 threw the election of the whole council into the hands of the ten pound voters.

However much the body of the inhabitants of Brechin may have been inclined to Presbyterianism, the ruling party seem, after the restoration of Episcopacy in 1662, to have gone hand in hand with the court. Defection in high places was not much to be wondered at during a time when men's minds were so unsettled. Nay, defection seems to have gone down to the lowest classes, for we even find that the renowned Jenny Geddes, who first put out a hand against Episcopacy in 1637, gave all the inflammable materials in the booth where she carried on the trade of a green grocer, to raise a bonfire in honour of the coronation of King Charles in 1661. It is not to be wondered at, then, that the magistrates of Brechin of 1678, cheerfully sent Mr David Donaldson as commissioner to the Parliament summoned " in order to the levying of forces for defence of the kingdom from foreign invasion and for suppression of field conventicles," a mode of



preaching in wilds and glades resorted to by the persecuted presbyterians, who were prohibited under severe penalties from worshipping God according to the dictates of their own conscience. As we find no mention of conventicles in this neighbourhood, and as there are not, so far as we know, any memorials of covenanters in the town of Brechin or surrounding country, we presume that the spirit of the people, like that of their rulers, had now readily bent to Episcopalian sway. At any rate, bishop Haliburton, who was inducted into the see of Brechin in 1678, seems to have been determined to assume all the temporal, as well as all the spiritual power, attached to his office ; for the minute of the annual election of councillors in September 1678, commences by declaring that there were " convened personally, the Right Reverend Father in God, George, lord bishop of Brechin, as also" the bailies and councillors ; and frequently afterwards, when any business of importance fell to be transacted, the bishop took his place at the council board. Haliburton's attention to civil matters, does not appear to have interrupted the proper discharge of his ecclesiastical duties, for he often presided at meetings of session, frequently preached during week days, and was always present at christmas, although, as we believe, he did not generally reside in Brechin. After his translation to the see of Aberdeen, we find it stated in the session records of Brechin, that on 20th September 1683, " bishop Haliburton preached on the Lord's day, forenoon text, Matthew, 5th chapter, 7th verse," it being then the practice to enter in the records of the session, not only the names of all the preachers, but the respective texts from which they preached.

The arbitrary proceedings of Charles II. and his advisers, produced as much discontent as the despotic proceedings of his immediate predecessors, and the kingdom was kept in a ferment during the whole of his reign, which closed in 1685. In 1679 occurred the battle of Bothwell Bridge, between the Presbyterians and Royalists, and in the same year archbishop Sharpe was murdered by a party of the non-conformists in Fife. In consequence, a general arming of the kingdom was ordered, and the council of Brechin named David Donaldson, younger, then dean of guild, to be captain on the east side of the town, James Cowie to be lieutenant, and Francis Molison, ensign; and for the west side of the town, Laurence Skinner, late bailie, was appointed captain, William Gray, lieutenant, and Alexander Millar, ensign; the captains being authorised to choose their inferior officers. The valourous deeds of those heroes are not on record. Probably their labours were confined to pretty much the same duty as is now discharged by the constables annually elected, who are governed by officers bearing the same high sounding titles of distinction which were given to the military gentlemen of 1679. The arms belonging to the burgh are subsequently stated to be 27 halberts, 10 muskets, 9 pairs of bandiliers "and ane pudder horne," 5 pikes, 2 half pikes and 5 swords, "by and attour the three swords which the officers have." A quarter of a month's cess was also levied this year for payment "of the militia at the rendezvouse," a body of troops differing from the burgh soldiers in the same respect that the modern local militia differed from the volunteers. The number of militiamen raised at this time by the burgh is

not mentioned ; but in 1685, John Strachan, William Crabb and George Scott, shoemakers, along with a James Tindall and a person bearing the appropriate name of David Cadger, fishmonger, are all admitted burgesses, gratis, because they undertook to go out as militiamen from the burgh for seven years.

These warlike preparations, however, seem not to have altogether abstracted the attention of the council from municipal affairs, for, in October 1679, the passage, as it is termed, at the North Port, is ordered to be made up "for convenience of passage of carts over the burn and up to the Port;" the Port being then situated at what is now the point of junction between the houses of Mr Baxter and Mr Young. Good drink also seems to have been worthy of notice about this period ; at least in May 1680, this "David Donaldson, younger," so often mentioned, and whose death is recorded as having occurred in 1684, is commissioned to go south and endeavour to obtain a remission of the excise fines then imposed upon the maltsters in the burgh, for "non-conformity" to laws which have often been evaded by the inhabitants of Brechin since that period.

In 1682, an act of parliament was passed, ordaining all persons in public office to take a certain oath to government ; and at the annual election of that year, we find this oath recorded as sworn by the councillors and deacons of crafts of Brechin. The form is very solemn, though the right of the king to impose such an oath may be doubted by many in the present age. The swearers declare in presence of the Eternal God, whom they invoke as judge and witness, that they profess the Protestant religion, will ad-

here thereto, and will educate their children therein ; that King Charles II. "is the only supreme governor of this realm over all persons, and in all causes as well ecclesiastical as civil ;" that it is unlawful for subjects, upon pretence of reformation or any other pretence whatsoever, to enter into covenants and leagues, or to assemble to treat of any matter of state, civil or ecclesiastical, without his Majesty's special command or express leave ; and that there was no obligation on them by the solemn league and covenant. The council of this period do not seem to have been of the same mind with the English gentleman, Richard Rumbold, who, when on the scaffold, for rising in arms against James II., declared that "he never believed the generality of mankind came into the world bridled and saddled, and the rest booted and spurred, to ride upon the multitude."

Mr Robert Douglas was appointed bishop in 1682, when the council created him, "Silvester Douglas, his lawful son, Alexander Douglas, writer in Edinburgh, Mr Silvester Lammie, minister at Eassie, and James Lamb" the bishop's servant, burgesses. This was in August, and in the September succeeding. Mr Alexander Gardiner, minister at Girvan, and James Douglas, another of the bishop's sons, were received to the same honour. Bishop Douglas was succeeded in 1684 by bishop Cairncross, an able man of peculiar fortunes, who does not seem to have met with the same respect from the council as Douglas ; at least we see nothing said about him in the council records except the fact of his having attended the head court and taken the oaths to the King in 1684.

Every one who has witnessed the fairs held on

Trinity Muir, has noticed the array of halberts with which the council are guarded to the markets, and by means of which, when necessary, the decisions of the magistrates, given in the markets, are enforced. This guard is furnished by the incorporations of the town, each sending two men at Trinity fair, and one man at Lammas fair. The weapons with which the men are armed belong to the respective incorporations. The array yet bears a warlike, although rather a burlesque appearance; but in the period to which this chapter alludes, these men at arms were considered as strictly under martial law; for it is solemnly recorded that two of the guard in May 1683 "did mutiny under their arms," and disobey the magistrates' orders, in consequence of which an act is made to prevent the like in time coming. One of these mutineers, named David Duncanson, seems to have given the magistrates no small annoyance on different occasions, and he ventured even to meddle with the bishop; for, on 3d September 1679, it is stated by the session that they had received a letter from his reverence, complaining of Duncanson "for uttering imprecations against him and his family;" but whether Duncanson was troublesome from political or clerical reasons, or from the pure spirit of mischief, is not recorded, although it would rather appear that he was merely a roving blade. Duncanson was, on the occasion of the mutiny, the guardsman sent out by the baker trade, and a baker himself—a craft which is severely censured in the same year for the insufficient bread offered to the public; the craft then consisting of only "two baxters," who are strictly prohibited by the town council from meeting together to

cheat the community. The other trades, however, come in for a share of the ban of 1683. The minute of council immediately following that regarding the mutiny, states that the town was then very ill served for want of good craftsmen, by reason of the exorbitant entry fees demanded ; and enacts, that, in time coming, the full fees of admission to the hammerman, glover, shoemaker and weaver trades, should be £20, scots ; and to the baker and tailor trades, twenty merks ; and that any sufficient craftsman tendering the entry money then enacted, should be entitled to exercise his trade, though his craft refused to receive him a member of their body. It is melancholy to observe that in July 1684, Walter Jameson "church-master," as the treasurer was then designated, is directed to give David Duncanson a boll of oatmeal, and that in 1685, the children of Duncanson are admitted to the benefit of the hospital as a fatherless family left in want. This is generally the result with persons of such character as Duncanson.

The bridge of Brechin was repaired in 1684, chiefly at the expense of the council, who were obliged to borrow money from the kirk-session to meet the heavy disbursements. The extent of the repair is not mentioned, but the record bears "that the workmen have been at it for a long time," and the voluntary contribution expected for the defraying of the expenses not being come in, the money was borrowed "lest the work should be delayed and there through miscarry." The session minutes state that on 19th January 1684, there were collected at the church of Brechin £31, 13s., scots, of course, "to help to repair the bridge of Brechin," while the presbytery

records of the same year bear that the clerk was instructed to deliver to the town treasurer of Brechin the money collected by the "several ministers and sessions," for repair of the bridge, the amount not being mentioned. The repair, however, then made was not complete, for, in December 1686, the council state "that the rail of the bridge of Brechin has been this long time in an ill and dangerous condition both to strangers and others, being broken down and fallen to the ground by the violence of the wind in November 1683, which is a great reproach to the town;" and, therefore, for removing of this reproach, Thomas Scott is ordained to repair the bridge, and "to have thretty punds for his pains, and his freedom to the town." Again, in 1691, the bridge is appointed to be put to rights, but the work must have been executed in a very slovenly manner, if executed at all, for, in 1695, the "east ravell," (eastern protection wall) is found to be very ruinous and ordered to be repaired; and, in 1707, the whole "ravell" is directed to be amended. The property new belonging to Mr. John Symmer, dyer at Meikle Mill, was held in feu of the town council for payment of a small sum annually, and under the obligation of keeping the *caulsenway* (roadway) of the bridge in repair; but this latter obligation was taken out of the last charter granted to Mr. Symmer in 1833. The bridge of Brechin was not the only bridge to which the attention of the inhabitants of Brechin was directed. In 1661 a collection was made for the erection of "two necessary bridges to be built over the waters of Esk and Prossin;" on 24th June 1668, the session of Brechin gave £4 to help to build the bridge of Idvie;

in April 1670 a collection was made to assist in repairing and rebuilding the shore and harbour of Dundee, "which was destroyed and ruined in one night by a stormy tempest of the sea;" in January 1673, a collection was made "for the burning in Coupar of Fife;" the sum of £38, 4d. was raised in 1679 for the burning there was at Glasgow, although, from various causes, the money was not paid over till 1682 to "David Rose, collector of the general contribution throw the whole kingdom for building the bridge at Endersonne;" and on 6th June 1680, the bishop ordered a collection to be made "through the *presbytery*," for repair of the bridge of Stracathro, to which the Brechin session willingly assented and appointed £6 scots to be given "as their proportional part." But these were not the sole purposes for which collections were made. Although the spirit of the times ran hard against liberty of conscience, yet the impropriety of slavery and the right of the liberty of the person were fully admitted, abstractly at least, and the sufferings of those in bodily captivity met with christian sympathy. On 6th March 1678, the sum of £64, 14s. 4d. scots, no mean sum, was collected in the cathedral church "for the use of the prisoners of Algiers;" and again in March 1682, were gathered for "Francisco Polanus, a Grecian, his brethren and sisters in Turkish captivity," £22, 10s. 4d.. Indeed, during the episcopal reign of bishop Haliburton, we meet with many liberal collections for the like generous purposes.

The discipline of the church appears to have been very severe and strict about this time, for one woman is ordered to stand all night in jail for scolding



an elder, and another is recorded as having occupied the "place of public repentance" no less than 15 times successively before being "absolved." The offenders nevertheless continued numerous, and no small portion of the income of the session was derived from fines. Another source of revenue, and a far pleasanter one, was the contributions made by parties when the nuptial knot was tied. In July 1685, the kirk-session enacted that the elder who collected on the sabbath should attend all the marriages of the week "for gathering the collections," an appointment which would be very agreeable to those members of session who liked good cheer. Numerous acts were also made about this period by the bishop and town's session in favour of individuals for the erection of desks or pews in the cathedral, all of which were specially directed to be wainscot. It will be observed that cathedral churches originally were open to every comer, and that there were few or no permanent seats in the church, each person being content to stand or bring his seat with him, and assume such place as he could find unoccupied. This is yet the case with the cathedrals in England and on the Continent. The setting aside of special seats in the body of the church to individuals, is first mentioned, so far as we have noticed, in the records of the landward session, on 10th February 1658.

The oath we have alluded to, commonly called the test oath, was sworn in Brechin for the last time in October 1685; and it then, for the first and last time, contained the name of James VII. In 1686, the election of any new magistrates or council was discharged by a letter from the Earl of Perth, Lord Chancellor

of Scotland, and the existing office-bearers were directed to continue their functions. The same arbitrary measure was resorted to by the infatuated James in 1687 and 1688 ; but in the end of that year, this Monarch, the last of the long line of Stewarts, was dethroned, and William, Prince of Orange, and Mary his wife, the daughter of James, were called jointly to the crown of Great Britain under the title of King William and Queen Mary. A minute of the town council of Brechin of this period, is so characteristic of the state of the kingdom, that we prefer copying it verbatim to giving any abstract of its contents. The minute thus proceeds : " Brechin the 28th December 1688 years ; convened in the town council of the said burgh the persons after named, viz. James, Lord Bishop of Brechin, James Allan, Laurence Skinner, and James Cowie, bailies ; Francis Moleson, dean of guild ; David Liddell, James Henderson, David Gray, Alexander Young, David Stewart, John Hendry, Alexander Dall, Alexander Jamieson, John Low, councillors : Who taking to their consideration heretofore and at this time, how frequently the whole kingdom is alarmed by the noise of invasion of Papists from France and Ireland, and of assaults and insurrections by Papists within this kingdom, have, conform to the practice of other burghs of the kingdom, put this burgh under arms, to be in a posture and condition of defence to join with the rest of the shire if they should be called. And by several proclamations through the town, ordered all the fencible men, free and unfree, within the town, to keep their several rendezvous well armed. And as it is known and complained of by several who gave due obedience

that there were several persons able of body and means who made no appearance, and some others does appear in the fields but had no arms ; therefore, for their contempt, and in example to others to disobey in time coming, ordains them to be poinded to the value of ten pounds scots money for ilk day's contempt. Whilk sum, so to be poinded for, is to be employed and bestowed for buying of powder and lead, to be distributed by the magistrates to those in the town who have muskets and firelocks when occasion shall offer. And it is farther enacted, that whoever shall be convicted of being absent at any rendezvous without a good and lawful cause to be allowed by the town council, shall amit, lose and forfeit the privilege of a burgess until he buy the same a-new at the highest rate used within this burgh ; and besides to be poinded for the said ten pounds for ilk day's contempt. And further, it is enacted for the better and easy convening and rendezvousing, that the town be divided in four companies under the command of four captains, who are to choose their under officers, for whom they will be answerable, to which captains afternamed the rolls of their several companies are delivered, who are to take care of the particular arms of ilk man under their command, and to report the same to the bailies and council ; and if any person or persons be deficient any day without a lawful and good excuse when the company is called or convened by authority, the several captains are hereby warranted to poind for the said sum of ten pounds, for which they are to be accountable to the magistrates and council, they having always allowance of the third part thereof for their under officers

and nightly guard. Captain's names are John Donaldson, captain ; Alexander Young, captain ; Walter Jamieson, captain ; James Low, captain." Such were the preparations of the bishop, the town council and community, probably made by the different parties in different spirits. All were hostile to the Roman Catholics, and some possibly to King James ; but the bishop was a determined opponent of, and no doubt authorized these preparations in the hopes that they would be effectual against, the Prince of Orange. The bishop of this period was James Drummond—a near relation of the Earl of Perth, who was a papist—but the bishop is reported to have been a man of strict Protestant principles, and a decided opponent of King James's interference with the church, although he, like most of his brethren, was a keen supporter of hereditary monarchy, and took a decided part with King James when most of his other courtiers deserted him. Bishop Drummond, therefore, no doubt, meant this arming to be for protection of James and the support of his throne and power ; but others, if we may judge from their conduct on the accession of King William, intended it for a very different purpose. With this minute, terminates the appearance of the bishop in council, and with this minute may be said to terminate the reign of episcopacy in Brechin. William and Mary were, in April 1689, declared monarchs of Scotland, and with their accession closed the supremacy of Episcopacy in Scotland.

Bishop Drummond preached in Brechin for the last time on Sunday, 18th April 1689, on the occasion of the administration of the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. His text was taken from the 12th

chapter, 1st verse, of Paul's epistle to the Romans, a text which does not imply Drummond thought this sermon was the last which would be delivered by a bishop in the cathedral church of Brechin. Whatever may have been the feelings of the bishop, the other ministers of Brechin seem to have welcomed the accession of William as a deliverance; for, on 16th May 1689, they hold a solemn "thanksgiving for deliverance from popery," and in the October of the following year, a "sermon of thanksgiving" is preached "for the King's (William's) arrival from Ireland." Amongst the names of the landward elders of this time, we notice following each other, "David Dalkers in Kindrochat," and "James Black" in Stanochie, names familiar in our ears as household words, although not now found in the list of elders.

It may not be out of place to remark that the Episcopacy of this era was of a very moderate cast. Dr. Russell, in his edition of Keith's History of the Scotch Bishops, tells us that "all the moderate Presbyterians attended the Episcopal worship and communion in the parish churches; and in fact, at the period in question, there was scarcely any outward distinction between the two parties in faith, in worship or in discipline."—"With regard to discipline, the established church of that day had their kirk-session as the Presbyterians have at present; they had their presbyteries too, where some experienced minister of the bishop's nomination acted as their moderator." Such was the church which King William put down, much it is believed against his own inclination; but the bishops refusing to recognise him as their Sovereign, policy called for the establishment of presby-

terianism as the national religion. The officiating clergymen of Brechin at this date were Mr. Lawrence Skinner and Mr John Skinner his son ; and in continuing to officiate as clergymen after the removal of the bishop, they laid themselves open to no charge of change of doctrine. Mr. Lawrence Skinner was originally doctor of the grammar-school, afterwards minister at Navar, and was, as we have already seen, nominated minister of Brechin in 1650, in which office he continued to labour till his death in 1691. Looking at the texts which are recorded in the session minutes as those from which he preached on the 29th May, the birth-day and anniversary of the restoration of Charles II., we should say he was a determined loyalist. Mr. John Skinner, refusing to sign the test required when presbyterianism became completely predominant, was deposed in 1695, but he remained about Brechin and appears to have had no little influence amongst his flock notwithstanding of his deposition.

In the spring of 1689, Graham of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee, attempted a rising in favour of King James, which was closed by the battle of Killiecrankie, at which this famous champion of national conformity in religion terminated his career—a career held by some to have been glorious, and by others inglorious, but admitted by all to have been bloody, if not cruel. On the 22d August 1689, there is an entry in the session records stating that there was “no sermon on the Sabbath day by reason of the Highlanders who are roving the country ;” and in the June of that year the council enact that as the inhabitants are extraordinarily oppressed for baggage horses

to transmit English forces to the north and back again, "this place being the public road," a month's cess should be raised to remunerate such of the citizens as were compelled to this service. A reason assigned for this taxation is that the public purse was low, or, as the phrase is, that "the common good of the burgh is far at under," in consequence of the expense of rebuilding the common mill. The meal mill of Meikle Mill, therefore, had been rebuilt at this time, and as it stood till 1808 when the present mill was erected, this building existed for 120 years.

On the accession of William and Mary, the town councils in Scotland were restored by poll elections ; but in the burgh of Brechin, where the bishop had acted as provost, and also named one of the bailies, while Lord Panmure chose another bailie, and the council only elected the third ; and where there was now no bishop, and consequently no bishop's bailie, (James Allan, by the bye, the bishop's bailie having disappeared from the council along with bishop Drummond,) a poll election could scarce restore the magistracy. This, at least, was the statement made by the gentlemen who remained in office to the privy council, and the privy council in consequence gave the remaining councillors power to choose a new council, and to dispense with the election of a bishop's bailie. Perhaps there was a lurking suspicion in the minds of the councillors that a poll election might have terminated unfavourably to them, for no doubt the bishop had left a party in Brechin friendly to his side of politics. This idea is confirmed by finding that in October 1689, the council made preparations for the maintenance of two troops of horse sent to quarter in

Brechin that winter. On 21st August 1690, we have recorded by the session that there was "no sermon on the Lord's day by reason of the armies coming into the town ;" and the burgh registers shew that in the following September, Lord Cardross, Lord Belhaven, and a number of gentlemen, officers in General M'Kay's troops, were entered burgesses ; a compliment likely intended to propitiate the government of King William, and bestowed on these persons when in Brechin. Soon afterwards other officers are admitted to the same honour, amongst whom is a Dutchman named Gerardus van Catenburgh. Possibly as James, Earl Panmure, was a high cavalier, the quartering of troops in Brechin was the more necessary. At any rate it would appear that Lord Panmure and the council were then not of one mind, for his Lordship appointed James Cowie not only to be bailie and his justiciar and constable within the burgh, but he gave him power to sit and affix courts and choose all necessary members of court and to uplift and receive the fines and bluidwits, thus claiming for bailie Cowie a power superior to, and independent of the other magistrates ; and that too contrary to the arrangement made between the town and the family of Panmure in 1635, and agreement following thereupon in 1637. The council resisted and appealed to his Lordship, who issued another deputation "in the old and ordinary form," and matters then went on as smoothly as usual. Mr. Francis Molison, who succeeded bailie Cowie as justiciar, was the first member of council who took the oaths to the new government ; and having brought a letter certifying this fact from Mr. James Muddie, member of parliament from Montrose,



and bailie of that burgh, Molison then administered these oaths to the other members of council.

In 1691, David Falconer, Esquire of Newton, attempted to establish a fair at the North Water Bridge, in opposition to the great fairs held by the burgh in Trinity Muir. This was an encroachment on the rights of the city not to be tolerated ; and accordingly the burgesses dispersed the laird of Newton's friends by main force. For this, some 20 or 30 of the inhabitants were cited before the privy council as guilty of riot ; but the case was taken up by the town council, manfully resisted for years, and finally carried in favour of the good town. In commemoration of this victory, the burgesses, when they were wont to "take in the market," or open the fair, used to ride to the North Water Bridge, cut a besom of birch there, and bring it to the cross of Brechin with them, in evidence that they had boldly swept the road of all encumbrances. A good deal of fun and humour prevailed on these occasions. It was deemed an honour to carry the besom, but an honour which must be bought ; and all the burgesses present at the North Water Bridge were expected to bid for the honour, commencing with the oldest and going down to the youngest, and to the youngest generally the honour was consigned, as a second *bode* was not expected from any person. The last time when the market was thus opened was in 1823. On this, perhaps the last occasion of the kind, the besom was bought and borne by Mr William Sharpe, surgeon in Brechin, afterwards a bailie of the burgh. We remember with no small pleasure the delight which we took in our boyhood in witnessing the horsemen surrounding the ring at the

cross, the riders and animals decorated with birks ; and we have a little pride in recollecting that in maturer years, we were called on to prepare and superintend the programme of this mighty affair—more profitable matters have not given us more pleasure. Might not the marches be yet ridden, or the market “taken in” occasionally, for the amusement of such burgess bairns as ourselves ?

Most of our readers will be acquainted, “practically,” with the Little Mill stairs, a lane leading from the High-Street down a precipitous bank, and by an alley overshadowed with trees, to the river Esk ; altogether a romantic walk, affording a beautiful view of the church of Brechin, with a peep of Brechin Castle ; and, although lying in the middle of the town, having all the stillness and rural scenery of a remote country situation. On the south side of the point where the lane leaves the High-Street was formerly a rising called the Mealhill ; and at the foot of this rising was a mill for grinding meal, driven by water taken from the Den Burn, into a reservoir at the place still called the Dam Acre, and then brought by a runlet through the town and precipitated down the steep bank to drive the Little Mill. This Little Mill, like minor states, was finally swallowed up by its larger neighbour the Meikle Mill ; and in September 1693 the council finding the Little Mill then useless, directed it to be converted into a waulk-mill, which also was ultimately abolished and the site reduced into garden ground. On the occasion of the conversion of the Little Mill into a waulk-mill, the lane passing down the ravine was causewayed, or pitched, as our “ancient enemies of England” term it ; and

agreeably to the orders of the magistrates, "two or three steps of" broad quarry stones were laid immediately beneath where the Little Mill stood, and where George Mathie has now a dwelling-house and weaving-shop, "in respect of the straitness of the passage there."

Mr. Harry Maule of Kellie, of whom we have before spoken, was at this time the parliamentary commissioner for Brechin ; and in April 1693, bailie Francis Molison is appointed to go to Edinburgh to meet Mr. Maule and to endeavour to procure a ratification of the grant made to the burgh at the time of the abolition of Episcopacy in 1640 of the feu-duties belonging to the bishop ; to resist any attempt made by Mr. Falconer of Newton, to procure a right of holding a market at the North Water Bridge ; and to endeavour to get all Saturday and Monday markets abolished ; the last being an object with the religious part of the community to prevent encroachments on the Sabbath, and to which object the attention of the town council of Brechin was repeatedly directed. Mr. Molison was successful in all his commissions. In virtue of an act of parliament obtained in 1695, the town council have now right to all the feu-duties previously belonging to the bishop ; and the greatest part of the burgh owns the town council as their superiors or over lords, either in virtue of this grant or of other titles belonging to the community.

In the same year, which is one of no little business, an act of council was passed, prohibiting any of the councillors from revealing what passed at the council table, under the penalty of loss of office, and of being found incapable of holding any public office within the

burgh, besides being fined in a sum of £20 scots. The year 1833 saw the affairs of the council board made patent to the public.

The raising and quartering of soldiers during the seventeenth century was a great annoyance to the burgh. Three companies were quartered in the town in 1695, which bailie James Cowie, then appointed commissioner to the burghs, is directed "to make moyance to get off." The marches of the burgh property also continued to be a source of trouble. After several minutes in regard to giving off to Mr. John Carnegy of Cookston part of the loan near that property, we find this gentleman and his son differing with some members of council on the subject, and almost taking masterful possession of the burgh. A minute dated 27th January 1694, (Saturday,) appoints bailie Alexander Young and Mr George Spence, town-clerk, to "take journey for Edinburgh on Monday next by *five o'clock in the morning*" to attend to a complaint preferred to the privy council by Cookston against the town council of Brechin and a number of the inhabitants. The next entry in the council books is dated 29th January 1694, which we find was a Monday, "*5 hours forenoon*," that is five o'clock morning, an hour at which we fear few of our modern councillors would choose to be called from their couches to attend to council matters; but an hour, early as it is, at which we find most of the councillors present. A formidable minute is then made, and bailie Molison, who appears to have been absent from the former sederunt, is conjoined with bailie Young and Mr. Spence in the Edinburgh commission. The record narrates minutely that young Carnegy had, four

years previously, struck Alexander Low, a burgess, in his own house "betwixt ten and twelve hours at night," and had broke bailie Cowie's cart and therewith forced open his outer gate, then his hall door and the windows of his dwelling-house, and finally, fired a gun at the worthy bailie when standing at his own window; and that Carnegy being imprisoned for this riot, had broke the jail and come out of it with a cocked pistol and drawn sword; for all which he is directed to be prosecuted. But the minute holds out the olive wreath, provided the bailies and town-clerk can agree with Cookston regarding the loan; and we rather infer that such agreement had been made, for next day "James Carnegy, younger of Cookston," is created an honorary burgess along with some officers and other gentlemen, and we hear no more of the matter. Subsequently, however, we notice that this gentleman was as contumacious towards the kirk courts as towards the civil authorities; and the session finding it impossible to procure any one bold enough to cite him before them for an alleged breach of discipline, were in 1707 obliged to apply to the presbytery to take up the case and to send officers from Montrose to execute the warrants.

The African Company planned by William Paterson, a Scotsman, for the colonization of the Isthmus of Darien, met with many supporters in Brechin. This Paterson was the person who first suggested the idea of the Bank of England, and afterwards of the Bank of Scotland, but he was excluded from any share in these wealthy concerns by men of greater influence. Paterson then turned his attention to the colonization of the neck of land connecting the two

great Continents of North and South America, and after beating about for supporters, was finally, by the assistance of Fletcher of Saltoun, enabled to procure an act of parliament incorporating a company by the name of "The Company of Scotland trading to Africa and the West Indies," with power to plant colonies, build forts, and govern the country to be colonized. There is little doubt the scheme would have proved successful, if King William had not, with that cool-blooded policy which disgraced his other qualities, thrown every obstacle in the way of the settlers of Darien, and ultimately left them to perish of hunger, lest the colony should prove a rival to the English East India Company. But at the outset the Scottish nation saw no difficulties. A mania prevailed for subscribing into the stock of the company, and the people of Brechin were infected by it. The council gave £100 from the common good, and, because no less sum was received by the company than £100, the books of the town council were laid open that the burgesses and the incorporations might subscribe such sums as they pleased, for which stock was to be bought in name of the magistrates for behoof of the subscribers. Accordingly very many availed themselves of this privilege; the guildry incorporation subscribed £50, 13 ladies gave £95, and 28 gentlemen £455, and no less than £700 went from Brechin to this unfortunate concern. To propitiate the people of Scotland towards the union, a fund was set aside from the public purse to make good the stock of the company when England and Scotland were made one kingdom, by act of parliament, so that ultimately the share-holders lost nothing.

Previous to this period, any very special act of the town council was subscribed by all the members of council, and queer subscriptions occasionally they made, but ordinary acts were not subscribed at all, the mere engrossing in the council record being deemed sufficient proof that they were the resolutions of the council. In 1696, an act was made and subscribed by all the members of council declaring that in future the subscription of the preses of the meeting should be sufficient to authenticate the minutes, and in 1698, the resolution was renewed ; but notwithstanding of this, the old practice was persevered in till 1700 when Mr. John Doig became provost. A similar practice prevailed amongst the different incorporations, and even the records of the kirk-session are not better authenticated.

The town's privileges being ratified in parliament in 1695, the council of 1696, on the motion of bailie Alexander Young, resolved that a provost should, in future, be elected agreeable to the charters in favour of the burgh, and the resolution was subsequently followed up by the election of Mr. Young to that office, since which time a provost has been annually chosen. This measure was succeeded by an attempt to gain precedence for the town's bailie over the bailie nominated by Lord Panmure, but after some sparring with his lordship, the council wisely enacted that in future the bailie selected by Lord Panmure should, in virtue of the resolution then adopted by the council, have the precedence.

In 1697 the tolbooth was repaired, and a resolution adopted to repair the schoolhouse and cross, and to apply to the convention of burghs for money to assist in

these measures. What cash, if any, was given, does not appear, but next year the council borrowed 1000 merks to assist the public purse in executing the repairs on the jail.

The Common Den, which now, under the superintendence of Messrs Henderson, nurserymen, forms so beautiful a prospect from Southesque Street, formed in our young eyes no less pleasing an object when covered with the turf nature had bestowed upon it, and decked with the daisies and buttercups of nature's planting. The braes are beautiful, covered with dahlias, roses, and other equally lovely plants, but the *Bonnie-brae* was truly bonnie with the gowans glinting out amongst the short thick grass, before Messrs Henderson put spade into the soil to convert it into a nursery. We repine not. The Den is improved. It is a source of revenue to the town, and affords healthy employment for many of its inhabitants, and were it restored to its wonted wild state, we doubt if we could bicker up and down the braes as formerly, or leap one after another the many wimples of the burn as in days gone by, or toss our dyed and hard boiled eggs with the same zest we did of yore. But we wander from our point. What we meant to say was, that towards the close of the seventeenth century, the Den was set apart for grazing the horses and cattle of the burgesses, and that in April 1698, an act of council was made appointing 40s. scots to be paid yearly for each animal grazed, and out of the sums thus raised, £32 scots to be first paid to the town, then a proper salary to the herd, and the balance, if any, to be handed over to the town treasurer for the public use. The town's herd was



a man of no little consequence. Each morning, at an appointed hour, he went through the town blowing his horn, a cow's horn, when every burgess who had a right of pasture, sent out his horse or cow ; and away stalked the animals from the one port to the other, gathering their fellows as they went, and followed by their noisy herd, who turned them all in at the foot of the Common Den, pastured them up to and out at the top, and returned them to their respective masters and mistresses at mid-day, to be again gathered out for afternoon pasture, and sent home by sound of horn in the evening. This practice, with slight variation, continued till 1805, when the exclusive right of pasture was let by public roup to the highest bidder, by way of a tentative measure to wean the public from the practice of common pasturage ; and after two or three such lettings, the Common Den was set in 1813 to Mr. John Henderson, senior, and by him converted into a nursery. For some years previous to the Den being let for exclusive pasturage, the money collected from those who used the ground for common pasturage, scarce paid the wages of the herd employed to take charge of the cattle ; and some burgesses even kept cattle without *lawfully* providing any other food for them than what was picked up by the animals from this common pasturage. The letting of the Den for a term of years was one of the first measures which improved the revenue of the town ; the letting of the bleachfield and mills for a series of years, in place of giving them off, as had long been the custom, on triennial leases, was the next great step which increased the income of the burgh.

William Guthrie, author of the well known work "The Christian's Great Interest," was born at Pitforthly near Brechin, in the year 1620. His father, who was proprietor of that estate, had five sons, four of whom devoted themselves to the ministry. Of these William was the eldest, and to qualify himself for the profession he had chosen, he acquired a very superior classical education, studied divinity at St Andrews under Mr. Samuel Rutherford, received licence to preach in 1642, and in 1644 was ordained minister of Fenwick in Ayrshire. During the "troublesome times" that followed, Mr. Guthrie was by no means an idle spectator. When not engaged in his parochial duties, he was with the army as a chaplain, or assisting in conducting the business of church courts. At the restoration of Charles II. and re-establishment of Episcopacy, he was ejected from his living and returned to Pitforthly, where the affairs of the family required his presence. He had only been there a short time when a complaint which had preyed upon his constitution for many years, rapidly increased. After some days of great pain, in the intervals of which he cheered his relations with his prospects of happiness in another and better world, he died in the house of his brother-in-law, the Rev. Lawrence Skinner, at Brechin, on the 10th of October 1665, and his body was interred in the cathedral church, below the pews belonging to the estate of Pitforthly.

## CHAPTER VI.

## THE HISTORY OF BRECHIN FROM 1700 to 1727.

PRESBYTERIANISM was fully established in Scotland in 1700, and with a very partial interruption, the presbyterian clergy have exercised all the powers and enjoyed all the privileges of established clergymen in Brechin since that time. The records of the presbyterian kirk of Brechin are commenced with a sketch of the state of church affairs in 1700, a sketch which we give at full length in preference to any abridgment, as it appears to have been the joint production of the committee of the presbytery of Brechin appointed to attend to the settlement of all matters connected with the parish of Brechin. This sketch is in these terms: "The church of Brechin being a collegiate charge, supplied by two ministers, the bishop in time of Episcopacy did supply the vice and room of one of them two, either by himself or his chaplain preaching a diet in the Sabbath's forenoon; and he that was called the second minister, ordinarily preached the afternoon's diet. Episcopacy being abolished in Scotland in the year 1689, Mr. James Drummond (who was then bishop of Brechin) was laid aside, and his charge became vacant. But presbyterian government not being then fully constitute, and judicatories presently erected in Angus, Mr. Lawrence Skinner, the episcopal incumbent, who supplied the afternoon's diet, took occasion to possess the forenoon's diet also, having assumed his son Mr. John Skinner to be his helper; and thus the whole charge was possessed and

supplied for some years thereafter, till the death of the said Mr. Lawrence Skinner, which happened in August 1691, whereupon the said Mr. John Skinner, his son, took possession of the whole charge alone, and continued preaching the whole day till the month of (*blank*) in the year 1695 ; at which time Mr. (*blank*) Abercrombie, minister at Lauder, by virtue of a commission from the presbytery of Dundee, took possession of the forenoon's diet of preaching in the church of Brechin, and declared vacant that charge formerly supplied by the bishop ; and thereafter the said diet was supplied by several presbyterian ministers, the said Mr. John Skinner still preaching in the afternoon, until the first day of August 1697 years, on which day Mr. Ninian Lumie, minister at Preston, by commission from the presbytery of Dundee, did declare vacant the charge possessed by the said Mr. John Skinner, and supplied the afternoon's diet of preaching also ; after which time both diets of preaching, forenoon and afternoon, were constantly supplied by presbyterian ministers and probationers, until the month of March 1703 ; at which time Mr. John Skinner foresaid, at his own hand, invaded the pulpit, and took possession of the afternoon's diet of preaching, and dispossessed the presbytery thereof. Thereafter, the united presbyteries of Brechin and Arbroath, in conjunction with a committee of the Synod, did, in the church of Brechin, upon the third day of December 1703 years, by prayer and imposition of hands, solemnly set apart, consecrate and ordain Mr. John Willison, first minister of the gospel there. There being no session constitute at the time of the said Mr. John Willison, his settlement, the foresaid united

presbyteries did appoint a committee of their number to meet at Brechin from time to time, and take care of the concerns of said town and parish of Brechin instead of a session, and till such time as they should procure the legal establishment of a session there, as an extract under the hand of the presbytery clerk at more length bears ; the tenor whereof is as follows : ' At Brechin, December 29, 1708, the united presbyteries of Brechin and Arbroath, taking under their consideration the many scandals abounding in the parish of Brechin, and understanding by Mr. John Willison, now minister there, that there is a necessity of setting about the establishment of an eldership in the place, for management of the poors' money, who are now at a great loss, Mr. Skinner having deserted the landward session, with whom formerly he had met, as also for exercise of discipline against scandalous persons, and strengthening his hands in the work of the ministry ; therefore, for carrying on the foresaid ends, they do nominate and appoint their following members, viz.—Mr. George Wemyss, Mr. James Forsyth, Mr. John Glassford, Mr. James Robertson, Mr. John Willison, together with Mr. James Kerr, clerk, to meet as a committee of the saids united presbyteries:—and do hereby fully empower and authorize you to call before you all scandalous persons in Brechin, and order them to satisfy the discipline of the church when required thereto, to take under their inspection the case and necessities of the poor of the place, and to set about the constituting an eldership, either by ordination or admission of such persons in the place as have been formerly elders, or been named to be elders in Brechin, as they shall see cause, and to do every

other thing they shall find necessary and expedient for the exercise of discipline, for suppressing of vice and immorality, removing of disorders and irregularities, and strengthening Mr. Willison's hands in the place:—and it is hereby also appointed that the said committee (of whose number, three are to be a quorum) shall be answerable and accountable to the said united presbyteries in all their actings and proceedings, and shall produce their minutes to them when called for; and the said committee are appointed to have their first meeting to-morrow, at Brechin, against ten o'clock in the forenoon, with power to them to choose their own moderator and clerk, and to appoint the diets of their meetings afterwards as they shall see cause. Extracted furth of the records of the presbytery by (sic subscribitur) James Kerr, clk. presb." This entry is succeeded by the records of the committee of presbytery, acting as a session till February 1704, when a session is constituted from the members of the congregation.

The presbyterian church government, thus re-established, does not seem to have commanded unanimous approbation; at least the town council talk very unceremoniously of "Mr. John Willison and his *pretended* session;" and from various entries in the public records, it is evident the gentry in the neighbourhood were still favourable to Mr. John Skinner, the deposed episcopal clergyman.

Mr. Skinner seems to have put the presbytery to no little trouble before they got quit of him. In 1704, he was called before that church court, but he gives the members plainly to understand, that he will continue to exercise the office of minister in the church of

Brechin as he had formerly done, upon which the presbytery "declared the said Mr. Skinner an intruder, and therefore to have no relation to the parish or congregation of Brechin." When this was intimated to Mr. Skinner, he, as the records of the presbytery inform us, very abruptly threw down a paper, neither signed nor indorsed, and thereupon took instruments in the hands of the clerk, and "also at the same time delivered a double of the said paper to one John Spence, fiscal in Brechin, and took instruments in the hands of the said Spence," a contumelious way of speaking which does not shew that the members of presbytery were then themselves in the mildest of moods. Various attempts at adjustment seem to have been made, recommended even by the Lord Advocate, but all apparently failed; and Mr. Willison, the presbyterian clergyman, reported to the presbytery in 1705, that Mr. Skinner had repossessed himself of the afternoon diet, and that he, Mr. Willison, had been informed, that if he should adventure to retake the pulpit from Mr. Skinner, he would be actually rabbled by a violent mob, who were resolved to support the episcopalian clergyman, "to which they were not a little encouraged by the magistrates who refused all concurrence or assistance to him, Mr. Willison, on this matter." Energetic measures were resolved upon by the presbytery, and proceedings seem to have been commenced in different courts of law, but still the matter hung up, and the affair is again and again adverted to in the records of presbytery, till finally, in 1708, a libel is raised against Mr. Skinner, charging him as an intruder, and a preacher of unsound doctrine. Mr. Skinner declines the jurisdiction of the

presbytery upon various grounds, all of which are repelled, and a number of witnesses being examined, the libel is found to be proven ; and, finally, on 14th September 1709, Mr. Skinner is deposed, a sentence which is subsequently enforced by warrant of the Court of Justiciary. In one of his papers, Mr. Skinner states that he was "legally settled minister at the church of Brechin in the year 1687, as appears by my presentation, collation, and instrument of institution," so that it would appear he had been 22 years a clergyman in Brechin. Mr. Skinner resumed the pulpit of Brechin in 1715, during the brief rebellion raised by the Earl of Mar, and in 1722, as the presbytery records inform us, he attempted to open a "meeting-house" in Brechin, but we find no mention of Mr. Skinner in any public records after this period, and we have understood that he left Brechin and went to Edinburgh, where he died about 1725. There can be no doubt that Mr. Skinner was an intruder, and acting contrary to the laws of the land, but there scarce appears to be any ground for the other charges brought against him, and of this the presbytery themselves seem to have been aware, for, in 1709, they "shew Mr. Trail (then clerk) that it is not the mind of the presbytery, that the minutes of the process should be produced in open court" in the General Assembly.

Mr. Skinner being got rid of, the next step was to fill up the vacancy in the church of Brechin, for which purpose the presbytery named two of their number "to speak to the magistrates and desire them to call some fit person in time, and appointed also letters to be written to the landward heritors about the same busi-



ness." The magistrates, however, did not pull with the church courts, and in March 1710, the presbytery find that the right to fill up the vacancy had fallen into their hands, and they therefore choose Mr. William Trail, probationer, and appoint a call to be drawn up to him, but Mr. Trail "because he had heard the people in Brechin were dissatisfied with him upon the account of his voice," declined the office; and therefore the presbytery "resolved to give a call to Mr. John Johnston as soon as possible, seeing the people of Brechin are so desirous of him." Mr. Johnston was in consequence ordained minister of Brechin, upon the 18th of May 1710, since which time the church of Brechin has had two clergymen.

We have formerly noticed that there were two sessions in Brechin, a landward session and a burghal session; but by the exertions of Mr. Willison, an act of the General Assembly was obtained in 1708, uniting the two into one session, and since then there has been but one session in the parish of Brechin.

Mr. Willison was a very popular preacher in the Kirk of Scotland, a leading member in the local church courts, and a firm supporter of the kirk. His name still stands deservedly high, as the author of the "Afflicted Man's Companion," written, as he himself says, "that the afflicted may have a book in their houses, and at their bedsides, as a monitor to preach to them in private, when they are restrained from hearing sermons in public." He is also the author of "The Mother's Catechism," a little work still in daily use, besides which he wrote two treatises on the Lord's Supper, and a variety of other religious treatises. Mr. Willison was likewise the principal com-

poser of the "Impartial Testimony," a work held to contain a true statement of what were then deemed the principles of the Kirk of Scotland. Mr. Willison's presbyterian principles were not in accordance with the feelings of the people in Brechin; and we are informed that he was persecuted in every way by the inhabitants, especially by those of the higher ranks, most of whom were violent Jacobites, and Episcopalians. Mr. Willison was translated from Brechin to Dundee, where he died on 3d May 1750, in the 70th year of his age, and 47th of his ministry. When he removed to Dundee he found it impossible to command the services of a Brechin carter to convey his furniture to his new charge, so violent was the prejudice against him. In his difficulty he applied to Mr. John Guthrie, tenant of Kincaig, great grandfather of Mr. David Guthrie, present provost of Brechin; and Mr. Willison received from Mr. John Guthrie the assistance of which he stood so much in need. In 1746, the horses of Mr. John Guthrie were seized by the Hanoverian party, to convey their baggage to the North, when the farmer of Kincaig posted to Dundee, and obtained from his friend, Mr. Willison, a letter to the Duke of Cumberland, who, the moment he read the letter, caused the horses to be returned to Mr. Guthrie.

It is curious enough to find the presbyterian church drawing a revenue from a popish ceremony. In 1704, the session considering that it is ordinary for people to cause toll the bells at the interment of their relations, fix the rates which are to be paid for doubling of the three bells, knelling of them, or knelling any of the bells. This practice, commenced in

popish times, and then intended to give warning to those within hearing of the bells, to pray for the souls of the departed, whose bodies were about to be committed to the earth, continued down as late as 1807; when, in consequence of the bells having been frequently broken by this mode of tolling, the town council, at whose expense the small bells then cracked were recast, prohibited the practice.

Men's minds were still unsettled in regard to political matters, as well as in regard to church government, and a good deal of manœuvring seems to have taken place in the burgh about the commencement of this century to gain the political ascendancy; amongst which manœuvres we may notice the resolution not to elect a provost, whereby the bailie nominated by Lord Panmure, would have taken the chief direction as senior magistrate. But these plots were met by counterplots, and it is hard to say which party was right, when Queen Ann herself was hesitating between the Whigs who had called her to the throne, and the Tories who supported her exiled brother. Still the town council, although plotting with a view to the affairs of the state, found time for minor matters. Thus, in 1703, they strictly prohibit any one from casting feal in the Den, unless for the repair of the bow butts, that is, for repair of the butts erected in the time of James I. for the practice of archery, and retained as butts for ball shooting, till our respected friend, Mr. Henderson, superseded them by shooting espaliers on the same place. Next year the council make an ordinance, scarcely so legitimate; for they ratify the whole former acts of council, discharging the inhabitants from pursuing their neighbour

inhabitants before any judicatory without the burgh. An act more self-denying occurs in March 1705, when the council, "in respect that the town's common good is greatly emburdened," appoint that at all meetings "ordinary ale" shall only be drunk, "and no strong drink to be called for or paid on the public account." We have formerly adverted to the expense the burgh incurred in supporting their member of parliament. In May 1700, it is enacted that "there be allowed to the present session of parliament, and in all time coming, for the commissioner's expenses, thirty shillings scots money for each day he is absent, and this besides the ordinary horse hire, back and fore, and no more to be allowed, and that for each day the commissioner is detained at the parliament allenarly."

On 1st May 1707, England and Scotland were legally united into one kingdom, under the title of Great Britain, and the parliament of Scotland was abolished. This measure created no little sensation throughout the two kingdoms. The town council of Brechin instructed their commissioner, Francis Molison, to vote in the Scotch parliament for the "union betwixt Scotland and England, and for all necessary supplies by this kingdom," thus shewing that the court party was then predominant in the burgh; but we have understood that the commissioner disobeyed these instructions and voted against the union. The mode of electing the first member from this town to the British Parliament is not made plain in the burgh records. It is stated, on 24th September 1707, that provost Young is appointed "commissioner to meet with the burghs of Aberdeen, Montrose, Aberbrothick and Bervie; and that at Montrose the 26th

day of September instant, anent giving instructions to (*blank*) Scott of Logy, younger, *who is to represent* in the British Parliament the 14th October next, the burghs of Aberdeen, Brechin, Montrose, Arbroath and Bervie ;” and this is all which we learn from the record on the subject. In May 1708, the council, in obedience to a precept from the Earl of Northesk, then sheriff of Forfar, nominated provost Young their commissioner, to go to Aberdeen on 26th May, and meet with the other commissioners from this district of burghs, and elect a member to the parliament of Great Britain, summoned to meet at Westminster on the 8th July ensuing. Who was then elected member is not recorded. This mode of election continued, each of the five burghs presiding alternately, till the act of 2. and 3. William 4th, c. 65., put the election directly into the hands of the people, and conjoined Brechin with the other three Angus burghs, Forfar, Arbroath and Montrose, and with the burgh of Bervie in Kincardineshire, in the right to return a member of parliament.

In 1709 all the burghs of Scotland were called upon to make returns of their *setts* to the convention of royal burghs, and the following is engrossed in the council book of Brechin, as the then recognised constitution of the burgh, and as a copy of what had been sent to the convention :—“ That the town council of the royal burgh of Brechin consists of thirteen members, whereof eleven merchants and free brethren of the guild of the said burgh, and two tradesmen, all residents and inhabitants of the said burgh, they do out of the aforesaid number of eleven, elect and choose a provost and two bailies, a dean of guild,

town-treasurer, and master of the hospital. There is no fixed day for the annual election of this burgh of Brechin, but either the town council of the said burgh, sometime before Michaelmas, yearly, do appoint and affix a day for the same peremptorily, or otherwise, the provost or preses of the town council for the time do call a council to meet any time they think fit, some few days more or less as they please, not exceeding five or six days, and most frequently fewer days before Michaelmas, in order to choose a new council and leet the magistrates; and then the old council elects the new council, and both old and new councillors leet two persons of the new council, in order to choose one of them provost; and a leet also of four persons of the new council to the end two bailies may be chosen out of the same; and cause public intimation thereof to be made by tuck of drum through the whole burgh; and upon the day appointed for the election, the new council meets, and in conjunction with the six deacons of crafts of the said burgh, out of the foresaid leet of two persons for the provostry, do elect a provost for the ensuing year, and then by virtue of a contract betwixt the bishop of Brechin, Patrick Maule of Panmure, and the magistrates and town council of Brechin in anno 1637, the Earl of Panmure, or any having right from him, being called, name a bailie out of the said leet of four persons so elected and chosen by the said town council of Brechin, and to which bailie he is obliged to give and grant deputation of the offices of justiciar and constabulary within the said burgh of Brechin; and then the council and deacons of crafts out of the remaining three persons choose another bailie, and

thereafter the council choose a dean of guild, treasurer, and master of the hospital for the ensuing year." Subsequently, in 1729, an act of council was passed, declaring that in case of equality of votes, the provost had both a deliberative and a casting vote, and that the neglect to state this was an omission when transmitting the sett to the convention. This sett was slightly altered at different times. The family of Panmure being forfeited in 1715, the council thereafter elected both bailies. In 1726, by an agreement with the trades, the deacon convener was received as one of the tradesmen who were necessarily members of council; and in 1820, by a like agreement, the incorporated trades were allowed to name both the trades' councillors; and the guildry incorporation were authorised to elect their own dean, who was granted a seat in council. Of the 13 members of council, 10 continued to be self elected, till the act of parliament, passed in 1833, placed the election of the whole councillors upon a new footing, and gave the householders, rated at £10 of rent, the election of the council.

Mr. John Doig, an elder of the presbyterian church, and a decided enemy of the Jacobites and of Episcopacy, had, in 1709, obtained the ascendancy in the councils of the burgh, and then held the office of provost. He is not much indebted to popular tradition, nor does he seem to have owed much to popularity during his life. No doubt, he was a zealous and able man and did many things for the *weil* of the burgh, as well as for his own benefit. In 1709 he had an act passed appointing the council to meet "each Monday by ten hours in the forenoon;" but if such weekly meetings took place, the transactions then discussed have not

been minuted. In April 1712, a serious riot is recorded as having occurred in the burgh, in which James Millar, deacon of the shoemakers, led on a party to "beat, blood and wound in the head and other parts of the body, the said John Doig," and the offenders are recommended by the council to the attention of the Lords of Justiciary. What was the result we are not informed.

We have formerly mentioned that the cathedral church was not originally supplied with fixed seats, but that these desks, as they are termed, gradually crept in after the Reformation. So late as 1715, we find applications made for liberty to fix seats in empty places in the church, and in 1710, the session appointed "intimation to be made to the people who take their chairs out of the church, that they who do so, shall lose their ground right." In the subsequent year, 1711, the session, with the view of increasing the poor's funds, granted liberty to the parishioners to erect *headstones* in the church-yard, but there is a strange distinction drawn between the burgh and landward part of the parish, for, while the burgesses are allowed to erect headstones on payment of 20s. scots, the landward parishioners are ordained "to pay half-a-crown for the said privilege."

The linen trade had by this time taken root in Brechin, and on 6th October 1712, Robert Whyte and David Windrim were appointed by the council "to be stamp-masters of this burgh for stamping all linen cloth." Under various acts of parliament, this office of stamp-master was continued, and by the increase of the linen trade the situation came to be one of considerable emolument within the burgh; but,



in 1824, parliament saw cause to abolish the practice of stamping linens, and it is believed that, since then, the linen cloth made has been fully as good as it was during the period when each web was measured, examined and stamped by a public officer. When the council named the first linen inspectors, they also ordained "two stamps, bearing the town's arms, to be made and delivered to them for stamping of the cloth." The stamp which was used when the office was abolished, was a large Scotch Thistle, with the name of the stamp-master and the word "Brechin," below the thistle. This same thistle, with the stamper's name and residence effaced, is now used in the office of our printers, as a decoration to the ballads which they occasionally issue from their press, we trust to their own profit and the amusement of the public.

In 1713, Brechin was the returning burgh for this district of burghs, and provost Doig was then named commissioner; but bailie James Spence was named the commissioner to choose a member to the first parliament of George I. in 1715, when Arbroath was the presiding burgh. In this same year 1715, Mr. Andrew Doig was sent commissioner to Arbroath to meet with commissioners from some other burghs, appointed agreeable to act of convention, "to endeavour to adjust a plan for the common interest of the said burgh of Arbroath, so that the magistrates thereof may proceed to elect a dean of guild and council." From this era, we presume, the guildry of Arbroath dates its existence.

But we approach to "Mar's year," the attempt to restore the exiled Stewarts in 1715, for which so many

plots and counterplots had been carried on in the state, in every burgh, and in this our small city. Queen Ann died suddenly in 1714; George the I. ascended the throne; he was austere with the Earl of Mar; that nobleman hastened to Scotland; raised the standard of revolt in Braemar; proclaimed James the VIII. of Scotland and III. of England, and involved himself and many a noble family in ruin by a hasty and ill-timed rebellion. Earl Panmure proclaimed King James at the cross of Brechin, and joined the standard raised by Mar. Earl Southesk also joined this unfortunate attempt. Both forfeited their estates in consequence. Many of smaller name, connected with the burgh, also acceded to this rebellion; and for years afterwards, we find the kirk-session refusing church benefit to great numbers till they had satisfied the discipline of the kirk for joining this "unnatural rebellion." The session-clerk chronicles the rising very briefly and distinctly. After an entry, dated 31st August 1715, he says:—"In the month of September following, broke out the late Earl of Mar's rebellion, against our most gracious Sovereign, King George, and the protestant succession in his family, and in favour of a Popish Pretender whom they called King James the Eighth; the which rebellion continued till the month of February thereafter; and this is the reason why there was no meeting of the session from the foresaid thirty-first of August, to the twenty-ninth of February thereafter."

The records of the session of Menmuir shew the distracted state of the times in a very interesting minute, of which this is a copy:—"4th September

1715. After prayer, sederunt, ministers and elders met in session. The session taking to their serious consideration the troublesomeness of the times, and the distracted state of this land and considering also, that they have in their hands the most part of the poor's stock in specie, and being very solicitous and concerned that it should be safe in this critical juncture ; therefore earnestly recommend to, and appoint the minister, to secure and hide the poor's money the best way he can; viz., the money received from Grandtullie's factor, and a hundred pounds scots, received from bailie Spence, in name of the laird of Balzeordie. Sederunt closed with prayer. Whereupon the minister went to Brechin, and the reverend Mr. John Willison, one of the ministers of Brechin, did direct him to a retired and safe place for securing the said money ; upon which the minister returned home, and did communicate the matter to two of the elders, and with one of them did carry the money received from Grandtullies factor to the said place, and secured the other hundred pounds got from bailie Spence, in name of Balzeordie, another way." This retired and safe hiding place had most likely been somewhere about the church, not improbably in the bottom of the round tower.

Mr. Gideon Guthrie, an episcopal clergyman, or nonjurant minister, as those of his persuasion were then generally termed, gave great offence to the presbyterian clergymen at this time, and in August 1715, Mr. Johnston, one of the established clergymen of Brechin, reports to the presbytery " that the affair anent Mr. Gideon Guthrie is come to this issue, that he is discharged to preach or exercise any part

of the ministry within the parish of Brechin, under the pain of 500 merks, *toties quoties*, and further declared incapable, for seven years, of any post or benefice within Scotland, as also fined in 100 merks and ordered to go to prison till payment thereof, as the sentence in itself more fully bears ;” but in place of going to prison, Mr. Guthrie went to the pulpit of Brechin, which he and Mr. Skinner jointly assumed possession of, for the brief period when their party was predominant during Mar’s rebellion. For this proceeding, Guthrie was called to strict account by the presbytery when the rebellion was suppressed, but he seems to have fled from the effects of his rashness, and we hear no more of him after this period. No proceedings apparently were adopted against Mr. Skinner, whose age probably had mollified the feelings of his opponents in reference to him.

Provost Doig was superseded during this rising—bailie Spence, whom we have alluded to as the commissioner for electing a member of parliament to the first House of Commons assembled by King George, having apparently assumed the sway of the town. On 29th September 1715, eight of the members of council meet, the whole council, as the minute bears, having been lawfully summoned “except John Doig, who could not be found at home,” and these eight re-elect six of themselves with seven others of true Jacobite principles, and this Jacobite council then choose office-bearers, carefully, however, avoiding to elect a provost, an office which they probably held belonged to the bishop, whom doubtless they expected to see restored. Spence is named by Panmure to be his bailie, “justiciar and constable,” and thus

Spence in fact acquired all the powers of chief magistrate. The minutes of this council are few, and only such as appear to have been forced upon them in ordinary routine. This council had more important matters to attend to than make minutes. In 1716, however, a poll election takes place, and all our Jacobite friends are superseded by provost Doig and his party. The whole thirteen members of council are *unanimously* elected on this occasion, from which circumstance we may fairly infer that, in 1716, none dared vote but in such way as Mr. Doig chose, without the risk of being reckoned Jacobites and enemies to the government of King George.

But the session record gives the most graphic account of the state of matters, and we quote it at length, leaving our readers to apply such saving clauses as their own feelings may suggest:—"Brechin, March 4, 1716. The session being constitute, sederunt, ministers, elders and session-clerk *ut supra*. This day the session taking to consideration that during the late unnatural rebellion the ministers were forced to retire for their safety, and the church was intruded upon by Mr. John Skinner, late episcopal incumbent here, now deposed by the church and banished out of the bounds of this presbytery by a sentence of the Lords of Justiciary, and Mr. Gideon Guthrie, late episcopal preacher in the meeting-house here, and turned out by a sentence of the said Lords, and that John Doig of Unthank, the present provost, was imprisoned by the rebels, and bailie Spence usurped a most tyrannical power over men's bodies and consciences, and threatened and forced people to hear the foresaid rebellious intruders drink disloyal

healths and otherwise to countenance the said rebellion, and particularly did wickedly impose a base and traitorous oath upon the people, called the Test, in which, beside other absurdities and contradictions, they did swear to the popish Pretender as King and renounce our only lawful Sovereign King George as a foreign prince, with which wicked impositions and base oath, a great number of the people, and *even several of the elders* have complied, either out of ignorance or slavish fear, or desire to shun suffering. And the ministers having laid this affair before the presbytery for advice, it was the presbytery's judgment that all the elders who had so complied and taken the foresaid oath, should be discharged from the exercise of their function of elders, and for removing of the scandal that they and all others, guilty of the foresaid compliances, should not only confess their sin in so doing before the session, but appear publicly and acknowledge the same before the congregation, and that they and every one of them should do this before they be admitted to partake of sealing ordinances or church benefits. And the ministers having represented this day to the session that they had accordingly been dealing with the elders and a great many others, privately, who had made defection and sinfully complied as aforesaid, in order to bring them to a sense of their sin, and they being willing to compare and confess in manner above written, and for that end were attending this meeting of the session, in order to appear this day before the congregation, whereupon compeared (certain individuals who are named), all which persons above mentioned professed their sorrow to the session for their said defection,

and their willingness to acknowledge the same before the congregation and be rebuked therefor." But no "rebuke" was given, the session contenting themselves with the admission of their power to rebuke. With more contumacious spirits, some years afterwards, the session was more severe.

James, "the Pretender," as it is known to the historical reader, landed at Peterhead on 22d December 1715 ; came to Brechin on Monday 2d January 1716 ; remained there till Wednesday ; then went to Perth and met his army, the members of which were as little pleased with him as he was with them. After playing the king at Perth for a brief space, James returned to Montrose, and from thence quitted *for ever* "his ancient kingdom of Scotland," having embarked with the Earl of Mar on the evening of 4th February 1716, on board a French vessel lying off Montrose to receive them.

Tradition tells us that the northern lights were extremely brilliant during the winter of 1714-15, and we have ourselves received it from a person who was told by her mother, that, during this winter, armies of men and horses were seen fighting in the sky. Our narrator believed this as much as she believed the holy writ, and said that all Mar's fortunes and misfortunes were distinctly portrayed in the sky ere he himself had raised the standard of revolt. Truly might the fate of this nobleman be compared, in the words of Burns, to

" — the Borealis race,  
That flit ere you can point their place."

So far as appears, Brechin became perfectly quiet after this insurrection was quelled. A company of

soldiers was stationed in Brechin for some time, but these soldiers were more an annoyance than a protection to the civil and *ecclesiastical* authorities. Provost Doig remained in office till his death in 1726. Bailie Spence died some time previous to 1722, for we find in that year, his daughter, Miss Katherine Spence, designated as daughter of the *deceased* bailie James Spence, elected to the office of schoolmistress, for instructing little ladies "in the arts of sewing and working of lace." Miss Spence is the first schoolmistress of the burgh, and it is pleasing to observe provost Doig, her father's opponent, voting her a salary of £30 scots for her services. In this same year 1722, the meal-market was erected, in the street now called Swan-Street, on the site of an old tenement purchased for the purpose. This erection, demolished in 1788, led to the opening up of the street alluded to, which still bears, jointly with its new title, its old name of the Meal Market Wynd, although the meal-market was removed about 1787 to the same place as the butcher market, and may be now said to be non-existent; the whole trade in meal being at this time carried on in private shops. The butcher market promises soon to be also non-existent, all the modern fleshers resorting to separate shops.

In 1723 the six incorporated trades established a general fund for the relief of their poor. It was agreed that this fund should be maintained by small contributions levied on each entrant freeman or apprentice, by fines imposed for offences against the rules of the corporation, and by a fine imposed in these words: "And if any prentice, journeyman, freemen, either young men or widowers, shall (as



God forbid) fall in the sin of fornication, then, and in that case, each person so transgressing, shall pay into this fund the sum of two pounds scots," to be doubled in case of aggravation. The fund has been long in abeyance, but we humbly think the six trades might do worse than apply their funds for the maintenance of such a charity. In 1726, as already noticed, an arrangement was made between the town council and the trades, whereby the council agreed to receive the deacon convener, *ex officio*, as a member of council yearly. This arrangement was effected by a bond subscribed by seven members of council only, and seems to have arisen out of a wish to give the superiority to the then dominant party in council; but the agreement, although frequently questioned, was regularly acted upon, and so became part of the set of the burgh after its date, the convener, when changed by the trades, being as a matter of course changed by the council.

The affairs of the guildry appear to have excited very little interest about this period. Year after year passes without any meeting, and even when a meeting does occur, a brief minute is entered as an apology for the neglect; but in 1748, the members resolved to meet on the third Thursday of October, yearly, a practice which has been pretty regularly followed ever since. The dean of this time was Mr. John Lyon, a connexion of the Strathmore family, through that branch to whom the estate of Auldbar for some time belonged.

The north side and north aisle of the church having fallen into decay, the session, after much difficulty, prevailed on the heritors to repair the building in

1718, "the factors appointed by the government on the forfeited estates of Panmure and Southesk promising to pay what lies to their share when called for." But this repair does not seem to have been complete, for next year the session demand a further repair on the steeples and aisles, an expense to which the heritors again demurred, but which they were ultimately compelled by "horning" to pay.

In consequence of the disturbed state of the kingdom after 1714, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was not celebrated in the church of Brechin for several years, but, in 1720, the session "resolved to set about that work," and in the March of that year the ordinance was dispensed. The discipline of the church gradually grew stricter after this period ; and persons were now censured for faults which had for some time previously been looked over, the session having resolved "to revive their old laudable custom of sending some of their number through the several corners of the town every Lord's Day." Marriages, up to this date, were usually celebrated in the cathedral, and we have various acts of the session censuring individuals whose mirth had overcome their prudence, and led them to behave indecorously at such ceremonials. In 1717, however, marriages in private houses are recognised by the session, for there is a minute in that year imposing a small fine on parties who prefer to have the ceremony performed elsewhere than in church. A public marriage, in a presbyterian kirk, before the congregation, would now draw general attention ; no such thing having occurred with the parents of any of the oldest persons alive.

Although Mr. Skinner had now retired from the

field, the presbyterian kirk was annoyed by episcopalian clergymen still visiting the burgh, and in 1726, the ministers of Brechin laid before the presbytery "a presentation against Masters John Grub and Francis Rait, who keep an illegal meeting-house in the town and parish of Brechin, and baptize and marry to the great disturbance of the said town," a presentation which was subsequently enforced before the Lords of Justiciary to the effect of shutting up this meeting-house.

George I. died in 1727, and with the close of his reign we shall close our chapter.

Amongst the poets of the period to which this chapter relates, we can notice, as connected with Brechin, David Watson and James Carnegy. Mr. Watson was born at Brechin in 1710, was educated at Saint Andrews, and afterwards became professor of moral philosophy in Saint Leonard's college of that city, but retired from the professor's chair when his college was united with Saint Salvador's in 1747. He then became author by trade, went to London, and fell a prey in 1750 to the dissipation which was the ruling vice amongst the wits of that time. He published a translation of Horace of no mean merit, and a "History of the Heathen Gods," which, in our day, was a standard school-book. Mr. Carnegy was the son of the laird of Balnamoon, where he was born in 1715. He came of a good stock—in the moral acceptation of the word—and was himself a man of genuine worth and warmth of heart. In early life he composed the beautiful and still popular ballad of "Low down in the Broom," adapted to a chorus of great antiquity, noticed in the "Complaynt of Scotland," written

about 1540. Mr Carnegy was a staunch Jacobite, and was out in 1745, after which he was obliged to consult his safety by living as a servant with one of his own tenants, till the act of grace in 1748 restored him to his family and the world.

William Guthrie, an eminent miscellaneous writer, was born at Brechin in 1708. In early life he commenced author by profession, and removed to London in 1730. For many years he collected and arranged the parliamentary debates for the Gentleman's Magazine and other periodicals, and lived in habits of intimacy with Dr. Johnson. About 1745, he managed to let it be known to government that he was a person who could write well, and that it might depend on circumstances whether he should use his pen as the medium of attack or of defence. The matter was placed on its proper footing, and Mr. Guthrie received from the Pelham administration a pension of £200 a-year. On a change of the ministry, nearly twenty years afterwards, we find him making efforts for the continuance of his allowance. "The following letter," says Mr Chambers, "addressed to a minister, is one of the coolest specimens of literary commerce on record.—June 3d, 1762, My Lord, in the year 1745-6, Mr. Pelham, then first lord of the treasury, acquainted me that it was his majesty's pleasure I should receive, till better provided for, which never has happened, £200 a-year, to be paid by him and his successors in the treasury. I was satisfied with the august name made use of, and the appointment has been regularly and quarterly paid me ever since. I have been punctual in doing the government all the services that fell within my abilities or sphere of life,

especially in those critical situations which call for unanimity in the service of the crown. Your lordship will possibly now suspect that I am an author by profession—you are not deceived, and you will be less so, if you believe that I am disposed to serve his majesty under your lordship's future patronage and protection, with greater zeal, if possible, than ever. I have the hon. to be, my lord, &c., William Guthrie." As a reward for his submission to the powers that were, Mr. Guthrie's pension was continued to the day of his death, which took place on the 9th March 1770, in the sixty-second year of his age. Mr. Guthrie's name is best known by his "Historical and Geographical Grammar," which had reached its twenty-fourth edition in 1818. In 1765, he published "a History of the World," and in 1767, appeared his "History of Scotland" in ten volumes, which is considered the most complete work of the kind written during the last century.

## CHAPTER VII.

## THE HISTORY OF BRECHIN FROM 1727 to 1760.

THE early part of the reign of George II. is not marked by any thing peculiar. People had now begun to look on the exiled Stewarts, as a family whose fate was no longer connected with that of Scotland, and the arts of peace engrossed the attention of most burgesses. In May 1728, the council of Brechin resumed the practice, forborne for some time previous, of riding the marches, and in the same year the Little Mill was utterly demolished, and the stones of it taken to repair the *gainshott* or ginshot as it is sometimes called—the wall which defends the north-west side of the Inch or public washing-green from the ravages of the river Southesk. Next year the council took a more decided step ; they feued off a piece of muir to John Ogilvy, under the name of “*Little Brechin.*” This ground now belongs to Mr. Baillie Nicolson ; and the numerous houses which have arisen there since 1820, promise fairly to realize the ideas entertained by the inhabitants of *Muckle Brechin* an hundred years ago. This village lies upwards of two miles north of the town of Brechin, about the centre of that tract of ground denominated “*Trinity Muir,*” of which the town council of Brechin are the superiors. Other feus followed close on the heels of that to Ogilvy, and the incorporations got alarmed that all the “*common guid*” was to be sold off. To quiet them, the council in 1729 voted a sum in name of a grant to the poor’s box of the six trades, and as a consideration for their

trouble in riding the marches. A new clock was, the same year, procured for the burgh from Alexander Gordon, silversmith in Dundee, at a cost, including *extras*, of £23 sterling; but the workmanship does not appear to have been fine; for, in 1736, we find £42 scots paid to "William Lawson of Ballewny," for repairs on this piece of machinery.

The practice of granting indiscriminate burgess tickets continued till this time; so much so, that in 1732, the town-clerk is ordained to keep the provost always possessed of twelve blank tickets "to be disposed of at the discretion of the provost or any of the magistrates."

The ports of the burgh which had been repaired in 1709, were in a ruinous and dangerous condition in 1733; but they were then repaired by "pinning and harling," under directions of the magistracy; and in the subsequent year "the council taking into their consideration the ruinous state and condition of the cross and public market place of this burgh," directed the same to be rebuilt for "the good, utility and profit of the inhabitants," and "for the accommodation of the country people, merchants and traffickers." Thirty years saw cross and ports all removed as useless encumbrances in the way of the citizens. The contract for rebuilding the cross shews the price of labour in 1734. George Millar and John Hunter, masons, received for their fees seven hundred merks, besides a crown of earnest, and this exclusive of the expense of casting of the "pit for the vault to be built below the cross." Robert Walker in East Drums, for furnishing the stones, got £126 scots, including the price of the "stang or standing stone for the top of

the cross," with one shilling of earnest. George Davidson, "deacon convener," and Alexander Low, carter, were allowed 6s. scots, for each load of stones driven, "they being obliged to lead *three* stones at each draught, excepting where the stones are extraordinary bigg."

The council had, no doubt, exercised the privilege of sending an elder to the General Assembly of the Kirk of Scotland, from the period their right to do so was recognised by that august assembly; but we see no notice taken of the exercise of such privilege till 1734, when bailie Edward Leslie was named commissioner. The council have yearly elected a ruling elder since that time; and the certificate of the "uprightness of the walk" of the person elected to this office in 1838, is exactly in the same words as the certificate granted bailie Leslie a century ago.

James Watson, tailor, applies to the council in 1735, to have feued to him the Gallowshill; and the burghal rulers finding that it is of small value, "and, as it now stands, of no use to the common good," dispose of it to the man of needles. This formidable spot is now occupied with a square of houses, some of which belong to that enterprising body, the North Port Distillery Company.

It is not a little interesting to observe the accommodation which was at this period deemed ample and sufficient for a gentleman. A committee of the town council, report, that, in their opinion, a new house should be built for Mr. Shanks, the minister of the second charge in Brechin, "49½ feet within the walls, in length, 14 in breadth, and 15 in height from the sole of the door, which will admit of two rooms on the



first story, each 14 feet square; a stair with two flights or turnings, 7 feet broad, and a cellar 10 feet; in the second story there will be two rooms, each 14 feet square, a closet above the cellar, with a chimney upon the side wall, and above them garrets; and that a house of no less dimensions can serve the minister and family." It is also said that in each room "there cannot be less than two windows;" and the other comforts of the family are provided for by "a brew-house of 12 feet of length, a stable and byre of 14 feet, and a barn of 15 feet of length." The building erected in consequence of this recommendation, was pulled down in 1803, when the house at present occupied by the reverend Mr. Foote was erected.

But we must not imagine that because the nation was now quiet, the pugnacious people of Brechin were at peace. A fierce political contest arose in 1728, when provost Robert Whyte was unseated, and John Knox was called to fill the chair. A law plea ensued, which only terminated with the death of Mr. Whyte and his brother magistrate and adherent, bailie Windram, and for which law plea the council paid a pretty round sum of sterling monies in 1730. In 1733, Mr. Knox was himself unseated, and succeeded in his office of provost by David Doig of Cookston, son of Mr. Doig, who was provost in 1715, and who was then imprisoned by the army of Earl Mar, for his adherence to the House of Hanover. Provost David Doig was, like his father, a man of considerable energy, but like him, he is not under any obligation to tradition. A legend, still preserved, notices his death in no very courtly phrase, and the popular voice asserts at "large screids" were acquired for the

estate of Cookston from the public property, at small prices. The legend, playing upon the provost's name, vulgarly pronounced Dog, runs thus :—

Provost Doig's dead—God be thankit ;

Mony a better dog's dead, since he was whelpit.

The demon of discord, however, again invaded the council in 1740, and Mr. Doig was turned off, provost Knox being recalled to the chair.

In September 1741, the six incorporated trades fixed the second Wednesday of September for the yearly election of deacons and deacon convener, and appointed that the latter official might be elected thrice in succession, but that no deacon should be continued in office for more than two years. This act yet regulates the mode and time of electing the convener and deacons of crafts.

About this time the first tea-kettle seen in Brechin made its appearance, specially commissioned from Aberdeen by the lady of one of the principal merchants, Mr. John Smith. The carrier who delivered the kettle, declared it was the greatest curse ever brought to Brechin by him or any other person. The practice of tea-drinking, however, spread quickly, and superseded the pottage and milk, the former breakfast meal, as well as the ale and bread which previously formed the afternoon's repast of all classes.

The records of the burgh are miserably deficient during that interesting period of Scottish romance, the insurrection of 1745-6. All that we gather from these records, is, that the elections were pretermitted for two years, and that a new council was chosen by poll of the burgesses in July 1747. A majority of the old council was re-elected at the poll election, but

the dynasty was changed ; and the family of Molison, aided by the Panmure interest, turned out provost Knox and his friends, although the latter were supported by the presbyterian clergy of the day, and eiked out their canvass by distributing to the populace rum punch, made in washing-tubs in the porch, on the north aisle of the church, in which distribution one of the clergymen, an enemy to all Jacobites, is reported to have taken an active hand. Mr. John Molison and his party continued predominant after this, during all the period which we mean to embrace within this chapter. Mr. Molison took an active superintendence of municipal affairs, and deserves no little credit for the labour he bestowed in adjusting the rentals of the town and of the hospital, previously allowed to go into great confusion. The reason assigned for the poll election alluded to, is, "that those in whom the right of election was, at Michaelmas 1745, were interrupted from completing their election at that time by the rebels who were then in possession of this place." During this interregnum, the municipal affairs were conducted by two gentlemen within the burgh, acting as sheriffs'-depute. An unhappy wight, James Warden, a town-officer, was then debarred from his office, for his attachment to *Charlie*, but, in 1748, the council records tell us, that this worthy was reinstated in his situation, because, poor man, he was "actually forced by the rebels" to join them. But although the authentic records are thus scanty, tradition has given us many circumstances connected with this period.

It will be recollected that Prince Charles Edward Lewis Cassimir Stewart, son of James, who claimed

the thrones of Great Britain, as Eighth of Scotland, and Third of England, landed in the Western Isles in July 1745, with only seven friends, and that, with little or no assistance from foreign aid, he took possession of the principal places in Scotland, and even bade fair to restore his father to the English throne, having advanced as far as Derby ; when, on the 6th December, he saw fit to pause, and to commence a retreat to the North of Scotland. " Bonnie Prince Charlie " never was in Brechin, but he had many admirers in the burgh, and most of the gentry in the neighbourhood joined his standard. William, Duke of Cumberland, the second son of George II., was sent by his father to cope with Charles ; and on the field of Culloden, near Inverness, was witnessed, on 16th April 1746, the spectacle of two princes, the sons of kings, contending at the head of their respective armies, for the right of their respective fathers to rule these realms. The result is well known—Charles was defeated—William was successful ; the family of Stewart was for ever superseded, and the family of Guelph has since swayed the sceptre. We ourselves have received it from an individual, long since gathered to her sires, but who, as she described herself, was " a wee bit callant o' a lassie," in 1746, that Lord George Murray passed through Brechin with part of Charles's army early in the year, and was followed in a few weeks afterwards by Cumberland and his troops. She pictured Charles's army as containing a most uncultivated set of beings, who excited terror amongst the inhabitants, even amongst those most friendly to the Stewart cause, and who were no ways scrupulous in helping themselves to anything which struck their

fancy, and was of a palatable description, but who were chiefly noted for their predilection for *ginger-bread*. These Highlanders were several days about Brechin, at least the advanced guard, mainbody, and rear guard, was each, one, if not two days, in the town. Murray's men took possession of the town-hall for their guard-room, broke up the benches, tore open the presses, and burned such records as fell into their hands to supply them with fuel. But notwithstanding of all these peccadilloes, the hearts of the ladies went with the Highlanders, and our little friend herself even found a sweetheart amongst them, whom she stated to have been a "protty lad." The troops of Cumberland were better disciplined, and the little lass alluded to described them as affording a beautiful sight when they marched along the Bridge of Brechin, having come from Forfar by Angus-hill, and what is now denominated the old road, the present turnpike not having existed till fifty years afterwards. A brewer who then lived at the end of the bridge, either from fear or loyalty, perhaps partly from both, spread tables in front of his house, and covered them with bickers full of beer and small loaves of bread, to which he invited the soldiers of Cumberland; but Prince William suspecting this over-hospitality, would not allow his men to taste a thing offered to them, not even a glass of water; and he caused his soldiers seat themselves by the side of the Esk, eat what provisions they brought with them, and lap out of the river like dogs, or like the army of Gideon. When the troops were thus refreshed, and had enjoyed a few hours' rest, Cumberland marched them up by the East Mill road, round by Pitforthie, and away by the King's

Ford, in the direction of Stonehaven and Aberdeen; so that King George's army passed the south end of the town of Brechin, but was never in the city. The duke himself and his staff, however, rode through the town, and joined the army at Cairnbank. Mr. David Mather, one of the bailies of Brechin, and a favourite of the fortunes of the family of Hanover, met Cumberland as he entered the limits of the burgh at the Muckle Mill, and with a bottle of wine and a glass in his hand, pledged the duke, and requested of him and his officers to partake of a refreshment then prepared for them by some members of the town council and other gentlemen of influence in the burgh. Cumberland took the glass out of the bailie's hands and put the wine towards his mouth, expressing good wishes for Mather and his colleagues, but he did not even venture to let his lips taste the beverage, and pointedly refused to allow his officers to partake of the dejeuner provided for them. Perhaps the duke's suspicions were more strongly excited at this time, in consequence of the folks of Forfar, the neighbouring town, having, a day or two before, contrived to cut the girths of his horses when he lay at Glamis, so as to retard his march northwards. Be this as it may, it is reported that neither the duke nor any of his army would taste a morsel that was offered to them; and that they drew their supplies wholly from their own commissaries, who were harsh enough in exacting what suited them from the country people, at such nominal price as the commissaries chose to put upon the articles. When the duke was slowly parading up the long main street of Brechin, anxiously gazed on by the inhabitants, he observed a singularly pretty

girl, standing on a *stair-head* opposite the cross ; and, struck by the girl's beauty, he bowed towards her, but the little minx, to the no small mortification of her admirer, and the great delight of the spectators, replied to this courtesy by the most contemptuous gesture she could adopt—a gesture fully as expressive as delicate.

Cumberland, it would appear from the records of of the presbytery of Brechin, was at Montrose on the 22d and 24th February. On the first of these days that presbytery met at Brechin in the forenoon, and adjourned to Montrose in the afternoon to address the duke, but “his royal highness having called together his general officers to consult about matters of importance, could not be at leisure this night but would very willingly receive them on Monday next in the forenoon ;” and, accordingly, on the 24th February 1746, that reverend body having desired access to his royal highness, they were graciously received and had the honour to kiss the duke's hand ; and, after a short address by their moderator, testifying their loyalty and steady adherence to his majesty's person and government, “and expressing their just abhorrence of the present unnatural rebellion, and wishing safety and success to his royal highness,” they had a most favourable answer by his royal highness himself. Whether it was before or after this that Cumberland was in Brechin, we have no certain information ; but, we should rather suppose the duke had come to Brechin to meet a detachment of his troops, after he had left Montrose, where apparently he had kept his head-quarters for a few days.

Many of the natives of Brechin were present at the battle of Culloden, but only a few returned to give an account of that awful day ; and these few, for obvious reasons, were not very anxious to speak of what they had seen. One gentleman who had served in the army abroad, but whose predilections led him to join the prince, (he was careful in avoiding to say which prince) used to tell that he surveyed the Highland line immediately before it charged the regular troops, and that the eyes of each Highlander then gleamed like coals, while each countenance was marked with an expression of determination, fearful to look upon.

Amongst those who did return from "following Prince Charlie," was Peter Logie, the cripple tailor of the Tiggerton of Balnamoon. Mr. Carnegie, the laird of Balnamoon, was a zealous Jacobite, collected the cess of the county of Forfar, in name of James VIII.; and followed to the "battle field" with all his train, for which he was subsequently taken to the tower, and only escaped in consequence of a "misnomer," when brought to trial for his connexion with the rising. Mr. Carnegie, although he made as much haste home as was possible after the battle of Culloden, found that Logie, with his club-foot, had preceded him by a day. The tailor was subsequently apprehended and questioned about his connexion with the rebellion, by the Elector of Hanover's magistrates, as he termed them. When asked if he was present at the battle of Preston, the battle of Falkirk, and the battle of Culloden, he answered affirmatively, and with much seeming candour, to each question ; and when asked what station he held in the rebel army, he replied, with a glance at his club foot, "I had the



honour to be his royal highness' dancing-master." Peter, it is needless to add, was immediately liberated. Balnagoon used to tell this story with considerable glee. Though there was no doubt that Logie was in attendance upon Balnagoon at Preston and Falkirk, those in the secret doubted whether the "sly tailor leen" had ever got the length of Culledon Muir.

Another retainer of Balnagoon's in the same rank of life as Logie, and who was generally believed to have seen the flight at Culledon, retained all his keenness for the cause till the close of a very old age. When he heard his neighbours complaining of the taxes, his usual answer was, "dail hae't cares, yewidna hae a guid king when we gae you the offer o' him."

Many of the prisoners taken to England at this time were confined in Tilbury Fort, a low dull-looking place, upon the side of the Thames; and so wearisome was the detention of these active spirits in this *inanimate* place, that none of them could ever afterwards bear to hear even the name of their prison. One person belonging to Brechin was seated by his fire on a winter evening, when his wife, honest woman, was reeling the yarn which she had that day spun. Our friend was musing on his past fortunes, and, dreaming that the click, cluck, clack—click, cluck, clack noise made by the reel in its evolutions, resembled the word Til-bury-fort, Til-bury-fort, he started up in a passion, seized the poker, and, with one ruthless stroke, demolished the emblem of industry, exclaiming "I see Tilbury-fort ye." The person who thus allowed his imagination to get so much the better of his reason, was a James Allardice, who resided in the Nether Tenements. During his impri-

comment he displayed no little heroism and firmness. Being strongly tempted to give evidence against his associates, he replied, "my life is in your hands, and you may take it, as you have taken the lives of better men ; but my honour is in my own hands, and I will keep it ; *that* you shall not take from me."

The Swan Inn, the principal Inn of the town, was kept by a Mr. Low, who was a member of the town council in 1746, and, as was alleged, one of those who prevented an election of magistrates and a renewal of the oaths to government at that time. After the rebellion was quashed, Mr. Low was taken to London, upon the information, as was supposed, of an over-sealous presbyterian clergyman. Nothing particular could be brought against Low, but it was thought he might be cajoled or frightened into being a witness against some of the leading men of the county, for whose conviction evidence was rather scanty. Accordingly, Mr. Low was confined under the charge of one of the king's messengers, who gave him every indulgence and took him round London to see all the sights. One day Low was suddenly sent for and examined by one of the secretaries of state. After some preliminary questions, to all of which Mr. Low gave every distinct answers, the querist said, "you will recollect, Mr. Low, on such a day, of seeing Lord Airlie and other gentlemen of the county (whom he named) in your house, wearing white rosettes (the Stewart livery) in their bonnets."—"It's not the practice, my lord," responded Low, "for gentlemen in my country to wear their bonnets in the house."—"Take him to jail," was the rejoinder, an order which was instantly obeyed, and Low was for nearly twelve months in con-

finement, but he ultimately returned to Brechin to be the choice host of all the Jacobites of Forfarshire, and the general favourite of his townsmen. Being in a friend's house with the suspected clergyman, years afterwards, the conversation turned upon London, when Low and the minister, who had also been in London, detailed, for the amusement of the company, what they had seen there. One of the gentlemen present, without reflecting, remarked it was strange Mr. Low and Mr. — appeared to have been in London at the same time, and yet had never met; "Sir," said Low, with a Johnsonian dignity which he could easily assume, "Sir, I was sick and in prison, and he visited me not." The minister soon found an excuse for leaving the company, and it was said ever after shunned talking of London when Mr. Low was present.

The Duke of Cumberland was much exasperated at the Scottish episcopalians, most of whom were Jacobites, and he was especially exasperated with the episcopalians of Forfarshire who raised no few men to assist Prince Charles. After the battle of Culloden, therefore, Cumberland adopted very harsh measures against the episcopalians, causing their chapels to be burned and all their property to be destroyed. His soldiers, under the superintendence of the christian pastor alluded to, tore up the benches of the episcopal chapel of Brechin, and burned all the wood-work of the interior, together with the prayer-books found in the chapel. The soldiery were also about to destroy the building, when the presbyter spoken of requested it might be spared, as it could be used for the Wednesday sermon—the sermon then usually de-

livered in the cathedral each Wednesday, and for which purpose the kirk was rather too large and cold. This was spoliation and appropriation in the true sense of the terms. The house was spared, but never used for the purpose intended. It is now occupied by the Relief congregation.

It would appear, however, the Duke of Cumberland had some cause to be alarmed at the Brechin Jacobites, if the representations made to the presbytery by the ministers of Brechin are correct. The presbytery records of 2d March 1748, contain the following curious entry :—"Then Mr. Blair and Mr. Fordyce, ministers at Brechin, being called upon, gave in the following representation. That they were sorry to say, that a spirit of disaffection did greatly prevail in their town and parish, and that, for the present, there was little appearance or probability of its decrease—nay, that it was more than before the late unnatural rebellion, which will be evident when it is considered ;—1st, That of thirteen members of which the town council of Brechin consists, six were the constant attendants of a non-jurant meeting-house, during the time of the foresaid rebellion, and it deserves a remark, that the provost or first magistrate, and one of the bailies, are of that number.—2d, That all the members of the said town council, except three, were some way or other concerned in the late execrable attempt, some of them by keeping guard on the Hazard Sloop prisoners, others of them by harbouring the goods of rebels, others of them by drinking the pretender's health publicly at the cross.—3d, That in the month of August last, his majesty and the royal family were made the objects of scurrilous

language and songs upon the public streets. That Mr. Blair, one of the ministers of Brechin, took notice of these wicked and treasonable practices from the pulpit on a Lord's Day, and warned the people against them, as things extremely evil in themselves, and which, if continued, behoved to draw down the just displeasure of the government upon the place. That though he did this on a Lord's Day in presence of the gentlemen who had lately been put upon the magistracy, yet this warning was so far from having its proper effect, that a daughter of Mr. Allardice, one of the present bailies of the town, sang a song in contempt of his royal highness, the duke, by way of insult upon Mr. Blair, on the Monday immediately after the said warning was emitted.—4th, That sometime in the month of August last, John Strachan, who had been committed to Tilbury Fort on suspicion of treasonable practices, and had returned again to this place, said, in a public company, that the Pretender, whom he impudently called King James the Eighth, was the only rightful sovereign of those realms, for whom he had suffered, and wished to God there were not a living man in Bergenopzoom, which was then besieged by the French.—5th, That so little care has been taken to put persons well affected to his majesty's person and government in the place upon the administration, that one Alexander Low (*our merry host of the Swan*) reputed a Jacobite by all that know him, and was taken into custody for treasonable practices during the time of the rebellion, and detained prisoner for several months, undertook to be evidence for the crown and afterwards declined it, was, notwithstanding all this, by the influence, no doubt, of his brother-in-law,

Mr. Molison, the chief magistrate of this place, made one of the town councillors at Michaelmas last, since which time, as a proof that he is still under the influence of the old spirit of rebellion, he had a child baptised by the non-jurant minister who resides in this town.—6th, That there are no less than two non-jurant ministers, one who has his constant residence in the town, and another who comes from the country, viz., Mr. James Lyall at Carcary, in the parish of Farnwell, who make it their business to go from house to house, and to instil bad principles into the minds of their deluded votaries, and baptise their children, and it's apprehended with too great success, for numbers of those frequented the meetings of the established church immediately after the rebellion, yet they have now, almost to a man, withdrawn from them, those three or four excepted, who being upon the public management, still continue to attend them in order to save appearances. Nay, to this purpose, it's observable that on the seventeenth of February last, being the day of public humiliation appointed by his majesty, there was not above three or four who had been the attendants of non-jurant meeting-houses before, and during the time of the late unnatural rebellion, who attended worship in the presbyterian church, or paid the least regard to that solemn day.—7th, That, so far as the ministers foressaid know, the magistrates of the place bestow no care to discourage the spirit of disaffection which rages here, or to give check to the non-jurant ministers, or so much as to enquire into their conduct and seditious practices. It is a strong presumption of this that tho' (as said is) they attend public wor-

ship in the established church themselves, yet none of them have ever brought their wives or any of their children, who are come to majority, along with them. Nay, that it is well known that their wives and daughters are among the most zealous friends of the non-jurant preachers.—8th, That his majesty's most zealous friends who have persisted in attending worship where King George was prayed for, when both ministers and people were in the greatest danger from armed rebels in the church, have been insulted and beat upon the public streets by disaffected persons, and such as bore arms in the rebellion, without receiving the smallest redress from the magistrates of the place, who ought to protect the king's lieges by the execution of the laws." A report grounded upon this representation was laid before government, but no proceedings followed in consequence against the contumacious magistrates.

Mr. James Fordyce, who concurs with Mr. Blair in the report of the Jacobitical spirit in Brechin, was the eloquent writer of "Sermons to Young Women," and "Addresses to Young Men," besides other theological works. He was ordained to the second charge of this parish in 1745, and continued a clergyman in Brechin for eight years, when he removed to Alloa, and soon after to London. Mr. Fordyce was the first presbyterian clergyman settled in Brechin in consequence of a presentation from the crown; and it was only after his case had gone through all the church courts that the settlement took place, a number of his brethren contending that a leet by the presbytery, followed by a call from the people, ought to have preceded the presentation.

In 1748, the Church of Brechin was repaired at an expense of £753 scots, a sum which appears to have been entirely expended on the roof and windows.

Mr. William Maitland, the laborious historian of London and Edinburgh, died at Montrose on 16th July 1757. He is generally supposed to have been born in Brechin about the year 1690, and the newspapers which report his death, mention that he died at an advanced age and possessed of £10,000 Sterling realised by trade. In the prosecution of his business, he travelled through many foreign places ; but, in 1730, he settled in London and applied himself to the study of English and Scottish antiquities ; and, in 1733, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Antiquarian Society. In 1739 appeared his *History of London*, which was well received. The same year he removed to Scotland, and in 1740, published his *History of Edinburgh*, a valuable and useful work.

The unfortunate close of Charles's romantic attempt destroyed all the hopes which the Scottish Jacobites had hitherto nourished, and although, for a few years, some zealous song-singing ladies, and equally zealous three-bottle, health-pledging, gentlemen might entertain hopes that the "king should enjoy his nain again," every cool thinking Jacobite saw that the sun of their hopes had set on the field of Culloden. Hereditary jurisdictions and military tenures, which had been as vexatious to the subject as they were annoying to government, were now abolished. The nation became united, and free from faction ; it grew less warlike, but it became more attached to agriculture and manufactures. The advantages of the Union with England then began gradually to be perceived. The



town council of Brechin, anxious to display their new found loyalty, were active in offering bounties and raising men for the Royal Navy. Yea, they published proclamations against smuggling, and petitioned to have the alehouses in Scotland regulated like those of England ; and, still more strange assimilation, they applied to parliament to raise a militia in Scotland upon the same footing as in England. With the aid of a grant from the trustees for improving manufactures, the Inch was levelled and let to a person regularly bred to the bleaching of linen, the son-in-law of Mr. Low, so often mentioned. Nuisances were removed from the streets; the waste lands of the burgh were turned to account ; the regular maintenance of the poor was thought of ; and for the thirty years succeeding this civil war, the attention of the town council of Brechin was occupied with matters of a peaceable and profitable nature. One act only, prohibiting the letting of houses within burgh to strangers, shews that the civil rights of the citizens were not yet fully recognized. Finally, the town council, in 1759, pulled down the ports of the burgh and sold the materials, thus shewing that for their part they feared no farther invasion.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## THE HISTORY OF BRECHIN FROM 1760 to 1800.

THE long reign of George III. affords many circumstances of heart-stirring interest to the general historian, but few circumstances which can be rendered of much excitement by the chronicler of local events. The internal affairs of burghs in the 18th century, may be of vast importance to the inhabitants of these burghs, but they have little connexion with general history, and hence have little interest for the general reader. Our subsequent details, therefore, we suspect, will command the attention of few persons not directly connected with Brechin, if indeed what we have already written shall command attention from any not so connected, or even from persons interested in the ancient burgh. But in the hopes that we may find some readers of some description, we shall hold on the even tenor of our way.

Situated inland, the expense of sea-borne coal has always been severely felt by the inhabitants of Brechin. Originally, feal and peats were the fuel generally used, and rarely is an excavation yet made in the streets but the site of some ashes pit or peat stack is discovered. Besides peats, pob, the refuse of liat, was very generally burned by the poorer part of the community; and so many accidents had occurred from the use of this fuel, that, in 1761, the town council passed an act prohibiting the burning of pob in time to come. For the same reason, and at the same time, the council discharged flax-dressers from

having their shops under the same roofs with dwelling-houses. Still further to prevent accidents by fire within the burgh, the council, next year, prohibited the repairing of any house with thatched roofs or wooden vents, and ordained that all new houses should be covered with slate or tyles, and have the vents carried up with stones. These acts, like many others of the same stamp, were only observed by those whom it suited to observe them. The evils then attempted to be remedied by municipal enactments have been all removed by the progress of improvement. The last thatched tenement within the burgh, was a house in the Lower Wynd, next to the site of the present schools, and long inhabited by a primitive personage, named Tibbie Patter, whose only companions were a cat and a brace of ducks. Upon Tibbie's death in 1810, the house, which was composed of stone and clay, and thatched, was pulled down, and replaced by a substantial erection of stone and lime. A humourous friend of ours was wont to style this last of the thatched biggings "Patter Hall," the house and inhabitants being unique of their kind. Recent improvements in machinery have rendered the employment of flax-dressers so dependent on spinning-mills, that the trade, as a separate profession, is almost abandoned, the flax being heckled at premises adjoining the mills, and thus, hecklers' shops are now unknown in the town, while the pob which served for fuel in 1760, is now wrought up into coarse yarns for the manufacture of bagging and like purposes.

A contest rather amusing, but not without interest in a political view, occurred amongst the incorporated trades in 1731. The tailors had resolved to augment

their wages to sixpence per day, and had made a regular act of their craft to that effect. This was viewed as a serious matter by the other five trades, and the convener assembled the incorporations to debate the point, upon which the deacon of the tailors lodged a protest, bearing that the deacons of the other crafts were not competent to judge what wages were sufficient for tailors, and ought not to interfere in the matter. There appears much reason in the protest, but the convener and his court did, notwithstanding, interfere ; found that the tailors had been " guilty of a *highnous* transgression " in making of their act, ordered it to be rescinded, and fined them in 20 merks for their conduct. The tailors gave in, pleaded they had made the offensive act " inadvertently," and the convenery court reduced the fine to 4s. 6d. sterling. The convenery court went still farther at this time: They ordained that no matter relating to trades' affairs should be taken before any other court than the convenery court. Possibly it was in consequence of this enactment that, in March 1766, a solemn complaint was laid before the convenery court against a tailor for " mismaking of a great or big coat." On this complaint, the court, after due inquiry by three tailors, found that the fault of the coat lay in the tightness of the sleeves only, and that this tightness arose from the shrinking of the cloth in consequence of exposure to rain, and not from the cabbaging of the tailor, who was honourably acquitted, but, rather inconsistently, appointed to " widen the sleeves upon his own proper expenses."

In 1763, a garden, situated at the mouth of the Bi-

shop's Closs, was purchased for the purpose of building a flesh-market upon. This market was used both for the killing of animals and retailing of their flesh till 1797, when a slaughter-house was erected at the Den-side. This flesh-market, which, in 1763, was doubtless a very great improvement, has now become of exceeding little use, almost all the butchers occupying separate shops in different parts of the town, a distribution of the craft which is much more convenient for the inhabitants than when the whole fleshers were collected in one public market, even although in the most central part of the town. The number of butchers too has so much increased, that the flesh-market would not accommodate above half of those of the present day, and this increase we look upon as no uncertain sign of the increased comforts of the people of Brechin since the time when the flesh-market was erected.

A serious riot occurred amongst the trades at the "intaking" of the Trinity Fair in July 1765, in consequence of which the council published a formal order regulating the precedence of the incorporated trades upon all subsequent similar occasions. This enactment, we believe, has been strictly observed ever since. The order of precedence is this: The free members of the hammermen, glovers and bakers, go first, abreast; the free members of the shoemakers, weavers and tailors follow next; then the wrights and butchers; and, lastly, the apprentices and servants of the different crafts, keeping the same order as that assigned for their masters. The butchers and wrights never had any voice in the municipal elections although they enjoyed corporate privileges. About

the end of the eighteenth century the butchers and wrights formed themselves into two friendly societies ; and, in 1827, when the rage came for breaking up such societies, the funds of these two bodies were divided, and the butchers and wrights then ceased to exist either as societies or corporate bodies. The glovers at present are in abeyance, having neglected, in 1836, to elect office-bearers, and we presume they will be content so to remain in time to come, the more especially as there has been no actual glover in the burgh for many years. The other five trades still exist—the hammermen, bakers, shoemakers, weavers and tailors—the last four composed chiefly of persons, handicraftsmen of the trades to which their names point—the first including smiths, watchmakers and saddlers ; the saddlers having originally been claimed by this craft from the quantity of iron work about the ancient trappings for horses. In 1766, the guildry incorporation renewed an existing ordinance of that body, by which any individual claiming admission as a guild brother was obliged to renounce all right to vote in the elections of the trades ; and the trades as strictly prohibited those who became guildry-men from any title to interfere in their elections ; so that within the town there were two public bodies jealously watching over the aristocracy and democracy of the burgh, and both looking with Argus eyes at the magistracy and close council of the town, till the reform act of 1832 threw the incorporations comparatively into the shade, and brought forward the £10 voters as a body commixing and superseding both guildry and trades.

Upon the petition of the doctor of the grammar-

school, or second teacher in that establishment, the council, in July 1765, in respect that "the expense of living and other necessaries, was, of late years, much increased," augmented the quarterly fee payable to the doctor from 1s. to 1s. 6d., but ordained him "to teach each scholar who shall apply for the same, writing and arithmetic for the said quarterly payment, as well as Latin." This office of doctor was abolished in 1783, when Mr. William Dovern was appointed "teacher of English, writing and arithmetic within the burgh," and allowed the salary formerly paid to the doctor, with authority to uplift from his scholars, "from those he teaches English only, 1s. 6d.; from those who he teaches English and writing, 2s., and from those who he teaches English, writing and arithmetic, 2s. 6d.," quarterly. Mr. Dovern, however, taught the foreign languages, because Mr. Linton, the rector, taught English and figures, and thus, in each of the schools, all the branches of education were taught till a formal division was made in 1834. The fees exacted about 1780-90, did not exceed 3s. 6d. per quarter for every branch of education except book-keeping, which was charged at a guinea the course. The fees were not augmented till 1801.

In July 1766, the Dove Wells of Cookston were purchased from the proprietor of that estate, and water was introduced into the town by means of lead pipes. It was then agreed, at a head court called for the purpose of considering the matter, that the expense should be defrayed by an assessment of 1s. 6d. on the rent, laid on for 15 years. The person employed to lay the pipes was a Robert Selby, plumber in Edinburgh, and his contract amounted to £287, 4s.

for pipes of one-and-a-half inch diameter, weighing 20 lbs. per yard, all carriages being defrayed by the burgh. By means of these pipes the town is still amply supplied with pure spring water of an excellent quality. To enable the community to pay the original expense, a credit was applied for and obtained from the Dundee Banking Company £500; but, in 1796, an arrangement was entered into with Earl Panmure, whereby he acquired a right to a pipe of half-an-inch diameter, for conducting water from the towns' fountains to Brechin Castle, and the earl paid the bond to the bank. In consequence, the proposed tax of 1s. 4d. was never levied, and the inhabitants were formally relieved of it by an act of council, dated 1st November, 1770. A tax, however, was raised for *maintaining* the wells, which was collected by a treasurer named by the inhabitants. Many of the proprietors bought up this tax, by which means about £100 were raised. Unfortunately, however, the fund came into bad hands and most of the cash was lost, while the whole expense of maintaining the public wells was thrown on the burgh funds. The maintenance of fountains, wells and pipes, has cost, first and last, no little money; but this expense, together with the other municipal expenses, have hitherto been paid from the burgh funds. The cross, the capital, as it may be termed, of the burgh, was pulled down in 1767, by order of the council, and, *Eheu!* the stones were employed in "building the six wells proposed for discharging the water in the town;" the reasons given for this demolition being the saving of expense to the community, and the increased accommodation afforded at the market-place by the removal of the



cross. The site of this ancient erection was pointed out by a circle intersected by a cross, marked by stones placed in the causeway, opposite the town hall, till, in 1837, this memorial of bygone magnificence was entirely effaced by the devoted followers of Macadam.

The proposal for a canal between Glasgow and Carron, in 1767, seems to have alarmed the magistrates of Edinburgh, and the council of Brechin were weak enough, in consequence of a communication addressed to them from a committee of the convention of royal burghs, to write their then representative in parliament, urging him to use his endeavours to have the measure delayed, "that an affair of such importance to the country in general may be more deliberately gone about." The canal has since been made and carried on to Edinburgh, but is at present threatened to be superseded by a railway between these two extensive towns.

In 1768, some of the country gentlemen in the neighbourhood had a regular battle with the magistrates in the Trinity Muir market, arising out of a dispute about enclosures erected by the council in the Common Muir. The magistrates were supported by the council and incorporations in going to law, and after a long discussion before the Court of Session, it was found that the right to enclose lay with the council, but that they had enforced their title in an improper manner. Thus both parties were, to a certain extent, found wrong, and both were mulcted in no small sums to the Edinburgh gentlemen who condescend to wear wigs and gowns, and to pocket the money and laugh at the simplicity of those who employ them.

In 1770, and the years immediately succeeding, large portions of the Common Muir were feued off to the Earl of Panmure, Mr. Carnegy of Balnamoon, and other gentlemen, to the advantage equally of the burgh and of the feuars. From the feuing of this muir a great part of the revenue of the town now arises, and as this muir continues to be subdivided and improved, so will the revenue of the burgh continue to increase.

We have a melancholy account given of the state of the public school-house in 1772. It is said to be "ruinous and in great danger by the back wall thereof being in daily hazard of falling," in consequence of which the council directed it to be repaired—not too soon, certainly.

The river Esk overflowed its banks in 1774. The whole bleachfield was then covered, and the inhabitants of the Lower Tenements were driven to the higher apartments of their houses, the under stories being quite under water.

It was in 1776, that the famous act was made, which we have so often heard referred to at public meetings, as an instance of how the best of measures may be misapprehended by public bodies. In June that year, the council directed the magistrates to oppose the bill then intended to be brought into parliament for making toll roads in the county, because, as the minute of council bears, "the establishing a toll would be highly prejudicial to the trade and manufactures of this burgh in particular, and to the country adjacent in general." The toll roads were, however, made, and in the 1793, the council subscribed thirty guineas towards the erection of a bridge

at Finhaven upon the line of the toll-road, which has ever since continued the principal thoroughfare between Brechin and Forfar. Modern economists have begun, like the Brechin council of 1776, to doubt whether the public highways of a nation might not be more fairly maintained than by a tax on the carriages travelling over them, so that the act, which almost since its date has been matter of mirth to the political philosophers of the burgh, may yet come to be held up as a proof of the wisdom of our ancestors.

The *muckle* bell was recast in 1780. The expense was defrayed chiefly by public subscriptions. How this recasting came to be necessary is not on record ; but tradition tells that some limbs of the law, and other young bucks, having become too jovial, climbed up into the steeple one Saturday night by means of the timber then kept in the *fore* church-yard by the carpenters of the town, and having thus gained admission to the belfrey, rung the bell till they broke it. Doubtless, these gentlemen, though keeping in the shade, would be liberal in their subscriptions towards the recasting of the bell. A few friends of ours were, in their heydays, seized with a similar fit of frolic and mischief. Amongst other tricks, they pulled down the sign of a worthy burgess, more noted for *jaw* than judgment, and who was not suspected of having "robbed" Pallas of her mantle of wisdom, nathless that he occasionally wrapped his little person in a cloak sufficient to hide all deficiencies of the outward man. We shall never forget the queer and CRABB-ed-like countenance of a gentleman of the brush, who was employed next day to replace the demolished sign, and who had the utmost difficulty

in answering, with becoming gravity, the numerous questions put by passers by regarding the cause of his labour. The painting, which might have been finished by the clever good humoured artist in half-an-hour, under ordinary circumstances, occupied him for four or five hours, but the account of cost we believe was never rendered. Many guessed at the offenders, but the fiscal, if he sought it seriously, got no clue for a prosecution, and the lads, who had been foolish enough for once, gave up all such tricks for the future. They owed no little to the painter, who still lives the esteemed of all his acquaintances.

A very formal act of the town council, dated 3d October 1781, regulates the mode of sitting in the loft in the church belonging to the municipal authorities. By this act it is appointed that the office-bearers shall sit in the front pew, the provost in the chief seat with the first bailie and dean of guild on his right hand, and the youngest bailie, clerk, treasurer and master of the hospital on his left, and that the other members shall sit in the pew behind. The cause of this formal minute is said, by tradition, to have been, that the deacon convener for the time, usurped a seat in the front pew, and we have heard that the "bold bad man" persevered in his claim notwithstanding of this act of council. The magistrates, therefore, wishing to shame the convener out of his presumption, put the town-officers into the front pew alongside of him, and retired themselves to the back seat. The audacious tradesman, however, at the end of the sermon, rose, and, with great *nonchalance*, made his bow first to the clergyman, and, then turning to the right, bowed most profoundly to the one

town-officer, and, turning to the left, bowed as profoundly to the other town-officer, agreeable to the mode then practised by the provost "himself", worthy man." When called to account before the council for infringing the act alluded to, the deacon replied that it was not he but the magistrates who had infringed the act, by sending the town-officers to the front seat, and retiring themselves to the back one. The contest, like most others of the same kind, was dropped by the magistrates, and the convener, meeting with no opposition, quietly seated himself where he found most room. But the act has ever since been referred to as regulating the *right* and precedence on the subject. So many of the members of council, of modern times, have been dissenters from the Kirk of Scotland, that, generally, "ample room and verge enough" is to be found for any councillor fond of a front seat.

John Duncan, Esq., a native of Brechin, and sometime proprietor of Rosemount, who realised a handsome fortune in the exercise of the medical profession in India, presented the town council with a China bowl still in existence, and which bears on its base this inscription: "Canton, 1785—from John Duncan in favor of Captain Stewart, Belmont." A ship, the crest of the family of Duncan, appears on two sides of this bowl, while the remaining two sides carry copies of the city arms; and the centre of the bowl is graced with a similar ornament surrounded with the words, "Success to the City of Brechin." The bowl is a splendid specimen of china, and capable of containing 20 Scotch pints or a gallon of whisky made into punch. When it arrived in Brechin, the ~~topers~~

of the day considered it necessary to try if it would hold in. Accordingly a feast was proclaimed and a company assembled, one of whom on returning to his family circle and expatiating upon the beauty of the bowl, declared, amongst other wonders which it possessed, (speaking with a lisp) that "there were mith in the bowel;" the jolly citizen having mistaken the lemons put in to season the punch, for Chinese mice swimming amongst the potent liquid.

The Bridge of Brechin stood very much in need of repair in 1786, and a Mr. Stevens, mason, estimated that £350 were required to put it in a proper condition. The council, who by this time began to see that the county had as much interest in this bridge as the burgh, subscribed £21 to assist. The remainder of the cash was raised partly by voluntary subscription in the town and neighbourhood, and partly by a county assessment.

In the same year, 1786, a collection was made at the church door for the benefit of the Infirmary of Aberdeen, to which the kirk-session minutes state this parish had been much indebted; and in the following year, 1787, a similar collection was made for the benefit of the Lunatic Asylum of Montrose, upon the assurance, as the minutes of session bear, that in consequence "our insane poor, after this, would be admitted to the said hospital on easier terms." The session minutes of the same year record, that his majesty's proclamation for the suppression of vice and immorality, and for the more religious observation of the Lord's Day, had been read from the pulpit, "and the congregation suitably exhorted."

It was in the year 1786 also, that Andrew Low, a

native of Brechin, was hanged on the hill of Balma-shanner, near Forfar, for stealing a cow from a person in the town of Brechin, being the consummation of a variety of crimes, some alleged to have been of a deeper die. This execution is peculiar, as being the last carried into effect in Scotland by virtue of the warrant of a sheriff. Low was tried and condemned by the sheriff of Forfarshire, agreeable, no doubt, to the law, but to a law which if it does exist is not now acted upon, and which, like the power of sheriffs to put to death, we trust may soon be blotted from our statute-book.

In January 1788, the council "considering that the meal-market of this burgh has not for many years been used for the purpose of selling meal, and that the wynd wherein it is situated is a very public entry to the town," ordained the market to be pulled down. This market was situated opposite the Swan Inn, a street yet too narrow for the intercourse in it, and which, from the increase of population in the new streets beyond it, will, every year, be found to call more and more loudly for farther widening.

This was rather a stirring year this 1788. The town-hall and prisons were pulled down and the present erections built by public subscription. The town council commenced the subscription with £300, and resolved to begin the work when £500 were subscribed. Sir David Carnegie of Southesk came forward with fifty guineas, and the rest of the sum having been readily contributed, the work was commenced early in the spring of 1789. The total amount subscribed, including the £300 given by the town, was £529, 11s. But the extra work went be-

yond the subscriptions, and another £100 were voted from the towns' funds to finish the work, and to procure a new clock, which was furnished by Mr. John Drummond, watch and clock-maker of Brechin. More extras yet arose, and finally, a *carte-blanche* was given to the treasurer to pay all accounts still remaining due. The guildry incorporation gave £50 to the rebuilding of the town-house, in consequence of which the council, on 9th September 1790, passed an act, declaring that the large east room or hall immediately above the ground storey, "shall, in all time coming, have the name of, and be termed the guild hall of Brechin, with liberty and privilege to the guildry of Brechin to hold therein their annual head court, and any other meetings called or summoned by the dean of guild of Brechin for the time."

"Application having been made from the magistrates and town council of Montrose to the magistrates and town council here, asking aid for making an intended road from the Bridge of Tayock to Montrose;" the Brechin council, by a minute in February 1789, authorised twenty guineas to be subscribed for this purpose.

One of the little bells having been cracked, was recast at London in 1789, at an expense of £6, 18s. 5½d., which sum, with £2, 5s. 5½d. of incidental expenses attendant on the re-hanging of the bell, was chiefly defrayed by a contribution at the kirk door.

Disputes arose in 1790, about the rights of publicans to pitch tents in the Trinity Muir markets, when the council very properly passed an act ordaining that all the then possessors of sites should be allowed to occupy them, themselves, but not to give



them over to any other person ; and that upon the death of these possessors, or upon their absenting themselves from the principal market, the sites should revert to the magistrates to be by them disposed of to new comers. The same rule yet continues, and some rule certainly is required when these canvass houses amount in number, occasionally, to nearly fifty.

An umbrella was brought to Brechin in 1790 by a lady from Montrose on a visit to her friends in this quarter, which was the first article of that description ever exhibited in the burgh, and such attention did it command that the lady was never permitted to walk the streets, with the instrument displayed, without attracting a host of spectators, male and female, who, despising the rain, followed her where-ever she went. Previous to the introduction of umbrellas, the ladies, in rainy weather, wore cloaks with immense hoods spread out by splits of bamboo, and which covered caps, bonnets and all. Females in the lower ranks of life wore plaids over their heads closely pinned under their chins. A very few of such plaids may yet be seen, confined mostly to the old ladies, who, from poverty and deafness, occupy the seats alongside the pulpit of the cathedral church.

A statistical account of the parish, written in this year, 1790, states that "there are neither Jews, Negroes, nor Roman Catholics in the parish, but some of those sturdy beggars called gypsies occasionally visit it." The gypsies still continue their visits, and a few Negroes and Roman Catholics may now be found amongst us, but the Jews consider us "too far north" for them as yet.

In the following year, 1791, the council of Brechin and county gentlemen were up in arms against the community of Montrose, because the Montrosians purposed erecting a bridge across the Esk, opposite what was then called the Fort Hill, without leaving any passage for vessels to go farther up the river. The agitation was renewed in 1800, when the town council of Brechin "considering that the open and free navigation of the river Southesque is of the utmost importance to the interest of the town of Brechin," agreed to sist themselves as parties in an action at the instance of Sir David Carnegie of Southesque, and John Erskine, Esquire of Dun, against the commissioners then appointed for erecting a wooden bridge at Montrose. These differences were all happily settled, and part of the wooden bridge was made to rise and fall so as to allow vessels to pass; and this wooden bridge having subsequently, in 1826, been superseded by an iron suspension bridge, accommodation for the passage of vessels has been found by converting the stone bridge farther on, over another narrower and deeper branch of the Esk, into a swivel bridge.

The Dundee Banking Company established an agency in Brechin about 1792, being the first bank which did business regularly in Brechin. The Bank of Scotland opened an office in August 1792, but the agency having been unfortunate, was withdrawn in 1803. The Dundee Banking Company was succeeded by the Dundee New Bank about 1804, and this branch of the Dundee New Bank remained till 1818. The Dundee Union Bank opened an agency in 1809, which still continues in Brechin. In 1814, the Montrose Bank also opened an agency, which was occasionally inter-

mitted between changes of agents, and was finally withdrawn in 1828 when this bank was dissolved. The British Linen Company sent a branch here in 1836.

Two acts of the town council of 1792 display no little liberality ; the one is directing a petition to government for the removal of the penal statutes against episcopalians, from which act the two members selected by the trades alone dissent ; and the other is authorizing a petition against the slave trade.

In the same year Adam Gillies, Esquire, then advocate in Edinburgh, now one of the senators of the college of justice, by the title of Lord Gillies, was appointed ruling elder, an office which he continued to fill for 40 years when he resigned the situation.

In this year also the council subscribed £10 towards the erection of the new University of Edinburgh, and the guildry bought for the public use a set of standard weights and measures ; so that this year 1792 may truly be marked in the annals of Brechin with a white stone, unless indeed we reckon as of a less liberal and tolerant spirit, the resolution then adopted by the council "to address his majesty, expressing their gratitude for his royal goodness" in publishing a "proclamation relative to suppressing seditious and inflammatory publications which tend to dissatisfy the people with the present happy constitution."

At this time the public streets were much in need of repair, but although the guildry contributed 20 guineas, the council found their means would go no farther than to pave the street from the South Port to the Path Head, and a contract was accordingly

formed in 1793 with Charles Jack, mason, for the completion of the work. Jack adopted the then rather novel, but since frequently practised mode of *ploughing* up the old road to make room for the new causewaying. It is somewhat remarkable that this street, while it was the first which was causewayed, is now the only one which remains in that state, the rest having been all macadamized within the last few years.

On 21st January 1794, we have this minute of council: "Which day the council having taken into their consideration, the present critical situation of the country, are unanimously of opinion that it is necessary to declare their affection to their sovereign and their firm attachment to the present happy constitution, and that they will use their utmost exertions to suppress all seditious principles, tumults and disorders that may arise, tending to subvert the same; and they do hereby express their detestation and abhorrence of all levelling and equalizing principles. The council further appoint a meeting of the principal inhabitants, to be held in the guild hall of Brechin, upon Monday next, the sixth current, at 11 o'clock forenoon, to concur with them in their loyalty and attachment to the king and constitution. And the provost having laid before the council a subscription paper he had received from Sir David Carnegie of Southesk, baronet, deputy lord lieutenant of the county, in consequence of the county resolutions of the 28th July last, published in the different newspapers, and recommended to the members of council to subscribe the same, and which paper met with the approbation of the members of council, and was accord-

ingly subscribed. Lastly, the council recommend to the provost to publish those, their resolutions, in the different Edinburgh newspapers." The six incorporated trades passed similar resolutions, even more decided, and certainly better expressed. These loyal addresses were followed up by as loyal actions. In 1796, four men were raised from the burgh to serve in his majesty's navy, the expense being defrayed by an assessment on the burgesses, amounting to upwards of £100, and, in 1798, the town gave £105 as a subscription to the loyalty fund, and for the prosecution of the war then pending with France.

The incorporations and burgesses began in 1770 to stir "in the matter of reform," as it is generally called in their books, and to demand inspection of the town and hospital accounts, that is, to control the ways and means; but the council of that period were no ways inclined to be so controlled, and although they agreed to give access to these accounts to a limited committee named by themselves, they refused to lay the accounts before the incorporations as a body. The struggle was subsequently renewed at different periods, and partial concessions were, from time to time, made by the council. In 1799, the council, for the first time, appointed the accounts of the burgh to be laid open for public inspection. This practice continued till the act of 1822, which ordained the accounts to be yearly exhibited for a given period. An abstract of the whole accounts is now printed and published, each year, for the information of the burgesses, agreeable to act of parliament. In 1790 the agitation of reform was renewed. It was then moved in the guildry, that the dean, appointed by the town

council, was a mere police magistrate, and had no right to interfere in the management of the funds of that incorporation ; and although this motion was not persisted in, the fact of such a proposal being seriously entertained, shews the feelings of the period, and that the knowledge of the rights of the people had made considerable advances.

The "dear years," as they were termed, produced considerable distress in Brechin ; meal, then the staple of the labouring classes, being scarce and high priced ; the consecutive bad harvests about the close of the century having created almost a famine in the land. In 1796 the town council voted £20 from the towns' funds, and £20 from the funds of the hospital, for the aid of the poor. In 1799, a similar subscription was made. The other corporations in the burgh came forward as readily, and private charity was very active. The oldest recollection which the writer of this work has, is, of seeing the people crowding about the door of the flesh-market, part of which had been converted into a meal-market, and struggling hard with each other for liberty to purchase, at a ransom, a small quantity of meal, every man holding his *pock* or little bag at arms' length above his head, while he attempted to force his body through the mass of suffering humanity around the door of the market. It was a trying time—war abroad, and famine at home. To alleviate these distresses in part, a soup-kitchen was opened in Brechin in 1800, a species of charity which has often since been resorted to with much benefit to the poor members of the community.

The ministers of the crown were seriously alarmed at the threats of invasion held out in 1798 by the

French directory and Bonaparte, then General of the French armies, afterwards emperor of that great nation, and, finally, an exile in the Island of Saint Helena. We have in our possession some of the circulars issued to the magistrates of this district, giving directions for the protection of the country in the event of invasion. One schedule requires a return of all the male inhabitants between 15 and 60, distinguishing those capable of service from those serving in the volunteer corps, and from aliens and quakers, and it requires also a return of the persons, who, from age, infancy, or infirmity, might be incapable of removing themselves in case of such a necessity. Another schedule demands a return of the number of bestial of different kinds in the district ; of carts and waggons ; of corn-mills, with the quantities of corn they could grind in a week ; of the ovens, and quantity of bread they could supply in 24 hours, and of the dead stock in the round. A third schedule applies to the arming of those willing to serve as soldiers on foot or horseback, with swords, pistols, firelocks and pikes, and of those willing to act as pioneers. More private instructions directed the blowing up of bridges, felling trees across roads and picking up the highways, removing the inhabitants to the Highlands, and burning the provender left behind. How thankful ought we to be that it was not necessary to resort to any of the extremities contemplated in case of invasion, and that no such precautions as those then adopted are requisite in our days.

Our gentlemen burgesses were not behind others in determination to stand up for their homes and their hearths, and to maintain the constitution. A regular

paper was drawn up and subscribed by 48 individuals, on 6th July 1795, by which they "agreed to enter into a voluntary company for supporting the present constitution of this country, and for suppressing of riots and quelling disturbances in the city; the corps to be under the directions of the magistrates for the time being, and not to be marched more than two miles beyond the liberties of the city during our pleasure; we are to have the election of our own office-bearers, are to furnish our own clothing, are to serve without pay, and being all, or most of us, engaged in trade, are not to be bound to attend the exercise but when convenient." The magistrates certify these heroes "to be respectable inhabitants of the place and loyal subjects, and that arms may be safely put into their hands." Of these 48 gentlemen five still reside in the town, one in the immediate vicinity, and two at a distance, but the remaining 40 and the three magistrates who approved of their conduct are all gathered to their fathers. The terms of service thus proposed were not such as government required, and the gentlemen, after studying the act of parliament then passed for the embodying of volunteers, were obliged to write Sir David Carnegie, baronet, of Southesque, the acting deputy lieutenant in this quarter, "that, considering their close engagements in business, it will be impossible for them to come under the provisions of that act;"—and so terminated this display of loyalty. But a regular corps of volunteers, embracing men of all classes in the burgh, capable of bearing arms, was subsequently raised under the provisions of the act, and this corps was succeeded by another which ultimately merged



into the local militia—a set of troops which came to be not a burgh but a county force, the different companies raised in different towns having been amalgamated and formed into one regiment. *Fuit Ilium.* The days of burgh soldiering are over.

James Hutton, one of the town-officers of Brechin, appointed in January 1788, and who survived till 1825, and William M'Arthur, another officer of this period, who lived till 1837, occasionally trespassed so far on the good nature of the magistrates as to dictate the sentences to be pronounced both in civil and criminal matters. When any of the bailies ventured to differ in opinion from Hutton, he would say, "well bailie, you may do as you like, but what *I* state, is the law." M'Arthur, again, when gently reprimanded by the provost for some misdeameanour, pulled off his coat and tossed it in the magistrate's face, desiring him to wear the livery and be his own officer. M'Arthur existed for many years on public charity. Hutton was the pensioner of the burgh at his death. So difficult was it found to procure proper officers in the eighteenth century, and so demoralizing was the situation presumed to be, that one of the chief magistrates declared, he verily believed, if the senior bailie were made a town-officer, he would become a black-guard in a month. Happily, steady men are now found to fill these situations with credit to themselves and advantage to the community, without exposing the virtue of any of the magistracy to a trial.

The statute labour act came into force about 1790, and we have in our custody a valuation made up with reference to the act, from which it appears, that at this time, the dwelling houses within the burgh, exclusive

of shops, manufactories, &c., were estimated as being rented yearly at £899, 5s., and that 97 burgh acres of land were valued at £250, 11s.; that the number of saddle-horses within the burgh was 24, carriage horses 34, and horses for hire for working land 2, while there was ostensibly only one riding horse for hire in the town.

Dr. H. W. Tytler, who was a practising physician in Brechin during the greater part of the period embraced in this chapter, and who died in 1808, was a man of eccentric habits, but an excellent scholar. He was the son of the minister of the parish of Fearn, a learned, zealous and popular clergyman. Dr. Tytler was first known as an author by a translation of "the works of Callimachus" from Greek into English verse, published in 1793; and, in 1798, he laid before the public, "Pædotrophia, or the art of Nursing Children, a poem in three books, translated from the Latin of Scavola de St. Marthe, with medical and historical notes," a work which has been much commended by critics. Dr. Tytler also translated the poetical works of Silius Italicus, which remain unpublished, with the exception of a few very beautiful specimens which appeared in the Scots Magazine for 1808.

Mr. James Tytler, the author of the once popular songs of "The Bonnie Bruikit Lassie,"—"Loch Errochside," and "I've laid a Herrin in Saut," was a brother of the doctor's, and spent a good deal of his time about Brechin. Mr. James Tytler was the principal editor of the first edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, and was the first person in Scotland who ventured in a balloon. The attempt was made from the Physic Gardens of Edinburgh, now part of

Leith Walk, in a balloon constructed by Tytler himself, upon the plan of Montgolfier. The attempt was unsuccessful, and entailed upon the aeronaut the sobriquet of "Balloon Tytler." Of course, such an attempt excited no little interest in Brechin where the man was so well known. A strolling company of players had their then residence in Brechin, and in the evening, when the news of the failure of the balloon came to the burgh, this party were performing a piece in which a gentleman is supposed to despatch his servant to procure some intelligence. The person who acted the part of the servant had either got too much liquor, or been too deeply imbued with the success of the balloon scheme, or perhaps partly both, for when he returned on the stage, and was asked, according to the trick, "what news?" he rejoined, "news, news, why Tytler and his balloon have gone to the devil," an answer which enraged one part of the audience as much as it amused another. Balloon Tytler died in America in 1805.

Burness, the author of the romantic and popular legend of "Thrummy Cap," as well as of some other poems of less note, was a baker in Brechin. While in Brechin he wrote a play, and prevailed on his acquaintances to enact it. The poetic baker not only wrote the stage directions, but he instructed his "corps dramatique" to repeat them. Accordingly, the first words uttered by the hero of the piece were, "enter Lord Buchan, bowing," the actor, of course, suiting the action to the words. The mirth of the audience was unbounded, and the play was received with raptures of applause—but not repeated. Burness's habits were erratic. He left the baker trade, and

served for many years as a soldier in the Forfarshire militia. When that regiment was disembodied, he became a traveller for a periodical publishing company in Aberdeen, and while thus employed, lost his life amongst the snow, near Portlethen, in February 1826.

About the close of this century, there lived in Brechin, the proprietor of a small Highland estate in the vicinity, of whom many facetious stories are told. An Englishman was boasting mightily in the company of the laird, of the wonders of his native land: "Hoûts," says Ogil, "come awa' to the Den and I'll shew you a greater wonnar." Accordingly he led the southron to what was called the Sandhole Brae, and stationing the gentleman in the recess made in the brae by the removal of the sand, Mr. Simpson went himself to the foot of the bank, some thirty yards off, and gesticulated violently as if screaming loudly, but took care not to utter a sound. The Englishman, of course, heard nothing, and when questioned by Ogil, declared, that although from the motions made by the laird, he was sensible that gentleman was speaking loud, yet he had not been able to gather a syllable. "A' owin' to the wonnarfu' nature o' the grund," said Mr. Simpson, "but try't yoursel!" The situation of parties was then changed, the English gentleman going to the foot of the brae and bawling as loud as he could, while our friend gazed upon him with lacklustre eyes as if hearing nothing. The southron was satisfied that if there were astonishing things in England, and amazing echoes in Ireland, there were as wonderful braes in Scotland which interrupted all sound. On another occasion the laird called on Mr. Colin Gillies, corn merchant of Brechin, with a sam-

ple of barley which he wished to sell. Mr. Gillies expressed himself highly pleased with the quality of the grain, but said he did not think Mr. Simpson's estate could have produced such fine barley ;—" Was it not a picked sample?"—" I' faith is't Colin," rejoined Ogil, " I pick't it out o' Sanny Mitchell's bear-stack, as I cam' by this mornin'." Mr Mitchell rented a piece of the best land in the neighbourhood ; but Ogil's humour secured a purchaser for the barley, whether the stock should or should not be equal to the sample shewn. When people were inclined to boast of their birth or connexion with nobility, Ogil would remark, " Ou, ye'll be like the laird of Skene's bastard dochter, wha said she was not only Noble but she was Nignoble." The laird of Ogil's *facetia* would make no *nignoble* volume, and his family, we believe, possess much of his talent. One of his daughters was the lady who passed herself off to the celebrated Mr. Francis Jeffrey, now Lord Jeffrey, as Mrs. Ogle of Balbogle, come to consult him on a law-suit ; and contrived to detail to the lawyer, with infinite humour, the leading circumstances which had occurred in a party when such a trick was threatened, without the learned advocate and critic ever once suspecting the imposture put upon him.

Dr. David Doig, though not a native of Brechin, was born in its immediate neighbourhood, and received his early education at our schools. His father rented the small farm of Mill of Melgund in the adjoining parish of Aberlemno, where David was born in 1720. In his 16th year he was the successful candidate for a bursary in the University of St. Andrews. Having finished the usual course of classical education he

commenced the study of divinity, but was prevented from completing his studies by some conscientious scruples regarding certain of the articles in the Confession of Faith. Thus diverted from his intention of entering the church, he taught for several years in the parochial schools of Monifeith in this county, and of Kennoway and Falkland in Fife. In 1740, his reputation as a teacher obtained for him the situation of rector of the grammar-school of Stirling, where he remained till his death in 1800. Though Dr. Doig never published any separate work of his own, his contributions in prose and verse to the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, the *Scots Magazine*, the *Bee* of Dr. Anderson, and other respectable periodicals, would have filled many volumes. The doctor lived in terms of the closest intimacy with most of the literary men of his time, particularly Lord Kames, Dr. Robertson, Dr. Anderson, and Hector Macneil, Esq., the latter of whom dedicated to him his justly popular poem of "Scotland's Scaith, or the History of Will and Jean."

George Rose, a late eminent political character, was born at Brechin on 11th June, 1744. His father, who was a clergyman of the Scottish episcopal communion, had a brother who kept an academy at Hampstead near London, where young Rose received his education. Having the good fortune to attract the notice of the Earl of Sandwich, then at the head of the admiralty, Rose was appointed keeper of the records by this nobleman. After occupying several subordinate situations in the public offices, Mr. Rose was, in 1803, made vice-president, and soon after president of the board of trade, with a salary of £4000 a-year, in which situation he continued till

his death in January 1818. Mr. Rose was the author of "Observations on the Historical Work of Mr. Fox," and of several political pamphlets.

Mr. Norman Sievwright was the *English* episcopal clergyman of Brechin of this period. He died on 21st March 1790, in the forty-first year of his ministry. He was settled in Brechin, we believe, about 1750. Mr. Sievwright was a learned man, fully impressed with the dignity of the English episcopal order, in contradistinction to the claims of the Scottish bishops. "He was (says his son, Mr. John Sievwright) the champion of the Church of England, and of the constitution settled at the revolution in 1688, which brought on him the hatred of the disaffected party in the country." Mr. Norman Sievwright published several works on divinity and controversy, and left behind him five manuscripts, one on the Hebrew Language, a subject upon which he had previously published; one, entitled "a Supplement to the Ecclesiastical History of Scotland;" another entitled "the Church of England defended;" and two musical pieces, none of which has ever been printed.

Dr. John Gillies, the author of the History of Greece and of many other works of learning, and long historiographer for Scotland to his majesty, was born at Brechin on 18th January 1746—the same evening that the Hazard Sloop, loaded with money and arms for Prince Charles, foundered upon the sand-bank called the Annat, at the mouth of the harbour of Montrose. Dr. Gillies died in 1836 at the age of 90.

In 1770, great improvements were made in the burgh by the removal of outside stairs, projecting gables, and other obstructions. In 1790, similar im-

provements were effected, and about 1800, the remaining obstructions of this description were almost all swept away. These alterations cost the town council heavy sums of money. By these improvements the Timber Market, formerly so obstructed with *foreshots*, covered with thatch, that the fraternity of free masons were prohibited from walking in it by torch-light, became a regular, if not an elegant street. The High-Street, which previously consisted of as many terraces as there were separate houses, was then brought to one inclined plane, while, by the removal of the steps at the end of each separate pavement, the foot-way was thrown upon one gradual slope. The Upper Wynd, formerly little else than a sink, was made a respectable thoroughfare; and Saint Mary's Street, previously scarce wide enough for one cart, and disfigured by an unseemly ditch on the north side, was made a decent passable street. All the other streets met with similar improvements. Credit, therefore, belongs to the magistracy and town council of this period, and although their successors have done much for which they deserve praise, yet we must not forget, that in the period succeeding the rebellion of 1745, improvements first began to be seriously thought of in Brechin. Any one who has seen the ancient and decayed burghs of Fife, and will contrast the streets of these burghs with those of Brechin, may form some idea of the herculean tasks which the town council of Brechin encountered in bringing the city to its present state, defective as that may be in the regularity and uniformity of the buildings.



## CHAPTER IX.

## THE HISTORY OF BRECHIN FROM 1800.

WE are now come to our own days, to a period when it would be indecorous to animadvert upon public men or the acts of any public body. The sequel of our history, therefore, must be confined to a narration of facts strung together, with little remark, in the order in which the events occurred.

In 1800, the customs of the burgh brought £71, 5s., and the dues of the weigh-house, &c., £31, 15s., total £103 sterling: They were let in 1837,—the common customs for £111, and the weigh-house dues for £31, total £142. It was the practice, at this period, to sell the right of collecting the street dung, and this right in 1800, brought £3, 0s. 6d. In this transaction the comfort of the inhabitants was but little consulted. The purchaser of the right claimed the privilege of allowing the inhabitants to puddle through as much mud as he chose to permit to accumulate, till it suited his convenience to collect it and cart it away. The Wash Mills for cleaning yarn were improved in 1800, and a new Wash Mill built; and the Bleach-field, with all the mills belonging to it, were then offered by public roup in set for seven years, and brought £95. The same premises further improved, together with the Meal Mills, which usually let for £26 or £28, were offered, in 1807, for a lease of twenty-five years, and then brought £181. The same subjects, with some farther additions, partly made by the town, partly by the late tenants, were, in 1832, again

offered by public roup for a nineteen years' lease and brought £331 per annum. This shews the propriety of giving a tenant such length of lease as may induce him to make improvements for his own profit, the benefit of which the landlord receives at expiry of the tack. Prior to 1807, large sums had been expended at the end of every triennial or septennial lease on the improvement of the mills; and the frequent change of tenants led to so many repairs that it was often questioned if the town realized any profit from the mills and bleachfield.

Poverty pressed hard on the inhabitants at the commencement of the century; provisions were still very expensive, and the town council found it requisite to subscribe £50 to aid the most indigent. The guildry gave £20 for the same purpose, and the other corporations assisted in the good work.

The Trinity Muir spring market was established by an act of council, dated 25th March 1801, passed in consequence of a representation made by the farmers and cattle-dealers in the neighbourhood, of the advantage that would arise from a cattle-market being held on the third Wednesday of April, yearly; and the market was accordingly held on the 15th April, 1801, for the first time. This market has continued regularly ever since, and has proved of infinite advantage to all parties interested in the cattle trade.

In 1801, the school fees, on the representation of the schoolmasters, were increased, and fixed thus:— for teaching of *all* branches of education, 5s. per quarter; for writing and arithmetic, 3s. 6d., and for writing and teaching of English, or for teaching of English

alone, 3s. per quarter. The charge of 3s. 6d. for "writing and arithmetic," was construed, practically, to include "teaching of English."

Volunteering was now the rage. In 1803, the "Brechin volunteers" were embodied. The town council subscribed £21 towards the expense of their clothing, and because the bleachfield was used as drill-ground, the tacksman of it was allowed £10 from the town for permission to *soldier* over it.

During this year the state of the cathedral kirk claimed attention; the old fabric was found to be decayed; meetings were called, resolutions entered into, and, by general agreement, the aisles of the kirk were pulled down, leaving, however, the nave, to which new aisles and a new roof were added; and the whole, at considerable expense to the heritors, the town, the different incorporations and the private seat-holders, was converted, in the years 1805, 6 and 7, into a more modern but still inconvenient church. Gothic cathedrals never make good presbyterian kirks; and the Brechin church is no exception to the rule.

The Common Den, to which we have adverted in a previous part of this work, was let, in 1805, for a rent of £19 10s. upon a lease of three years, as a tentative measure of the right of the council to do so, but after some wrangling with the trades, the title of the council was acquiesced in. Upon the expiry of the first lease, the subjects were again let for another three years, at a rent of £21 per annum, to November 1811.

New office-houses were built jointly by the heritors and town council, for the accommodation of the second minister, in 1807.

The ringing of the *muckle* bell was to us, as we doubt not it was to many of our readers, a source of considerable amusement in our boyish days. So much had the tolling of the bell become the province of the boys, that it was almost neglected by the beadles of the kirk ; and the council, in 1809, authorised the magistrates “to engage a person for ringing the great bell in the steeple, regularly every day and night, at the following hours, viz. at seven in the morning and eight at night, in winter ; and, during the spring, summer and autumn, at six o’clock in the morning and eight in the evening ; and, upon the Saturday of each week, also, at ten o’clock at night—being thrice that day ; and, to continue ringing said bell at the foresaid hours, for the space of one quarter of an hour.” The person then engaged, James Craig, continues to ring the bell regularly as pointed out in this minute, although the young folks still continue to get a swing in the tow at the last toll. We were very much struck, when going to satisfy ourselves in regard to the dates of the bells, in reference to this little work, to observe, that the youngers who crowded round the ringer, were the sons of those with whom we ourselves had been so often similarly engaged, and many of the fathers of whom lay in the graves around. The steeples are the same, the bells are the same, the ringers are changed ; one generation having succeeded another, as one crop follows another in succession.

The table of petty customs was regulated, of new, in 1809, printed and published, and has been since acted upon, although abstruse enough in some points.

In the same year, 1809, on the death of Mr. William Dvertie, who had supplanted the *doctor* of the

grammar school, Mr. George Alexander was elected parochial schoolmaster, from which office he was worthily promoted to that of rector of the grammar-school in December 1833. In the same year, 1809, the house near the West Port, called Carcary's house, was bought of Mr. Lyall of Carcary, with the view of accommodating the schoolmasters and schoolmistresses with schools and dwelling-houses : but, although partially occupied by some of the teachers, as tenants, under the town council, it has never been found expedient to apply the property to the purpose for which it was ostensibly purchased. In 1811, it was proposed to erect new schools ; and, the year following, a piece of ground, formerly occupied as a corn-yard and tannage, was purchased and converted into public schools. The expense was defrayed by subscriptions from the heritors, town council and private individuals. The whole expense, as recorded in a minute of council, of 28th May 1814, was £1216, 17s. 4d. For this sum, a building containing three school-rooms was erected, plain, but neat, ornamented with a belfry on the top, containing a *wooden* bell, and embellished with a rather handsome clock-face below the belfry, the funds for purchasing a genuine bell and clock not having been procured ; but the great improvement effected by this erection, was the removal of a nasty barn, a quantity of ill-built stacks, and a filthy tan-yard, at the principal entry to the town from the west, at the point where the Lower Wynd and Saint Mary's Street meet, being the exact site which Lord Panmure has chosen for the handsome structure, now being erected, to replace the schools and afford accommodation for a library and a mechanic's institution.

A juvenile society was instituted in 1811, amongst the young men of literary pursuits, and existed for several years, the members devoting an hour very early each morning, during summer, for discussing literary subjects. The ages of the members of this juvenile assemblage ranged from 12 to 14. This club merged into a debating society when the members attained a few more years and a little more experience. Similar debating societies have since, from time to time, been called into existence in the burgh; ceased—and been again renewed.

In 1812, the council passed an act, regulating the mode of warning out tenants within the burgh, by which, at an expense of 1s. 9d., this necessary form is put through. In place of a penny above a pound scots, the same process costs nearly a pound sterling without the burgh. In the same year, the town purchased an acre of land from Mr. John Gray, part of which has since been added to the Den at the north-end, having indeed been bought at the time for this purpose, with the view of the Den being converted into nursery ground. Accordingly, on 11th May 1812, the Common Den was let by public roup to Mr. John Henderson, for the purpose of being converted into a nursery, the rent being £21 per annum for the first ten years; £25 for the next seven years, and £30 for other seven years—the tack running for 24 years. At the expiry of his lease, Mr. Henderson retook the property, jointly with his sons, for 27 years, at a yearly rent of £61. Hence the town now derives a large revenue from a piece of ground which was previously all but useless. This year, 1812, was a hard season upon the poor in the burgh, and the

council united with the heritors in raising a subscription for the aid of the poor in the parish. It was in this same year that Provost Thomas Molison, piqued by the inattention of the then member of parliament for this district of burghs, who considered the whole as pocket burghs which he could twist as he pleased ; and who, therefore, did not deem it necessary even to call on the council, far less on the community of the burgh,—it was in this year that Provost Molison, when called on as a delegate from Brechin for his vote, declared that he voted for himself, and thus gave rise to an opposition, and to the introduction of a liberal instead of a conservative member of parliament.

A provincial bank was established in Montrose in 1814, which sent agencies to Arbroath and Brechin. The agency in Brechin was under the management of different gentlemen at different times, but was never fortunate. The bank was dissolved in 1829, when it was ascertained that there had been a great loss incurred, arising chiefly from misfortunes in the Arbroath and Brechin agencies.

The landed proprietors and farmers, in the eastern district of Angus, formed themselves into an agricultural association in 1814. The society still continues, and has done much to improve the breed of cattle and the implements of husbandry in the district. It has two meetings annually, and reckons Brechin as its head-quarters, although a cattle show is held each year down the country for the accommodation of the farmers on the coast side.

In 1816 the council agreed to allow the master of the parish school £13 to assist in paying an assistant. This

vote was renewed from year to year till 1821, when £500 were raised by subscription, and vested in the hands of the town council, to pay an assistant or third teacher ; and when the schools were divided in 1834, this annuity of £25 was assigned to the burgh school-master. Of the money thus raised, by far the largest part was contributed by the town council.

There is a long entry in the council book of April 1816, approving of the table of customs then fixed for the Montrose harbour ; and in November of the same year, the council added to their own *customs*, by rousing, for the first time, the use of a weighing machine then erected, and which brought, as rent for one year, £4, 4s. The same machine brought, in 1837, the rent of £6, 6s.

The year 1817 commences, in the records of council, with a minute, characteristic of the then state of the times : An address is voted to the Prince Regent, afterwards George IV., “ upon his escape from the late daring attempt upon his person in returning from the House of Peers ;” and a committee of council is named to meet with a committee of the inhabitants, petitioning for retrenchment and reform in the administration of public affairs.

In 1816 and 1817, the weavers were very much distressed for want of work in Brechin ; to alleviate which, in part, the town council employed a number of people to trench the ground, formerly under wood, now known as the town's parks, and lying immediately south of Murlingden. From the same generous motive, Lord Panmure caused the ground at the Haughmuir, then known as the Haugh-muir Wood, to be trenched, and gave a preference in his employ-



ment, to the inhabitants of Brechin ; and the ground thus trenched, is now occupied as a farm by Mr. John Henderson.

In May 1817, the right of pasturage of the grass on the Trinity Muir market stance, was let, for the first time, and brought a rent of 15s. The same right was let, in 1838, for £5. This year, 1817, the council were again obliged to extend their aid to the poor of the town, and to import and sell, at a reduced price, a quantity of barley for the use of the inhabitants of the burgh. Almost every two or three years since, some public subscription or other has been raised for the poor, at times wholly by the laity, and unconnected with the *kirk* or *state*, at other times by the heritors and council in aid of the kirk-session funds.

Burgh and parliamentary *reform* began now to be seriously discussed. The Guildry, in October 1817, petitioned to have the right of electing their dean, who should be received, *ex officio*, as a member of council ; and, in December, the trades, in like manner, applied to the council to have the liberty of electing the second trades' councillor, they having the right, at that time, to choose the convener, who, by the sett of the burgh, formed one of the 13 members of council, consisting of 11 guildrymen and 2 tradesmen. The council pronounced a legal-like decision on these petitions, declaring that they had no power to alter the existing set of the burgh. This did not give satisfaction. At the booking of the dean, named by the council in 1817, the guildry went into open rebellion ; and, at the next election of magistrates in September 1818, protests were entered against the selection of councillors and office-bearers. A process of reduc-

tion followed in the Court of Session: the deacons of the trades, the prosecutors, lost heart and proposed to withdraw the action upon each party paying their own costs: the town council refused this offer: the war was renewed: a new election came round in 1819; new protests were entered; new proposals of compromise were made; parties became more moderate; the action was withdrawn; and the council, guildry and trades, all applied to the convention of royal burghs in 1820, so far to modify the set of this burgh, as to allow the dean, chosen by the guildry incorporation, to be received by the council as dean of guild and member of council, and to give to the trades the right of electing the convener and trades' councillor, who were to be received in council as the trades' members accordingly. The convention agreed to the request; and the sett, as thus altered, remained the constitution of the burgh till 1832, when the burgh reform act put all incorporations on their beam-ends, and vested the right of electing councillors in the householders possessing property of the value of £10 per annum.

In 1818, the trades made a long act, ordaining that the deacons who had a vote in the election of magistrates, although in no other act of the council, and the deacon convener who was *ex officio* a member of council, should consult the trades before voting on the *lects* of magistrates proposed by the council for their consideration, and that signed lists should be tendered by the deacons to their constituents. In 1819, says the trades' record, "it having been resolved that the deacon convener and deacons should not vote in the election of magistrates this year—no signed lists were

made out." In 1820, "they dispensed with the signed lists for this year only," and no more is heard of the matter. When the right to elect a trades' councillor was obtained by the six incorporations, however, they adopted a set of very judicious regulations or bye-laws for the regulation of the election.

The agitation of these questions led one of the unincorporated trades, the wrights, to endeavour to shake off the burden imposed upon them of furnishing a quota of men to attend the chartered markets as a guard to the magistrates ; but, after a process on the subject, the wrights were found to be liable with the other trades in this service.

A new market, or "Tryst," as it is called, was established by the council in August 1818, and appointed to be held on the Trinity Muir market stance, upon the Tuesday preceding the last Wednesday of September, yearly. This market was appointed at the request of the farmers in the neighbourhood, and has, we believe, been found fully to answer the expectations of those who petitioned for its establishment, and for whose encouragement the market was exempted from all custom for three years.

The road up the Path was widened, and the steepness greatly removed, in 1818 and 1822, at no little expense, but certainly much to the advantage of those having to carry heavy weights by that road. A railway, too, was planned between Brechin and Montrose in 1818 ; but, after much canvassing, was dropped, as not likely to yield proper returns.

The town-officers had been long in the practice, on the first Monday of the year, agreeable to the old style, or Handsel Monday, as it was called, of waiting

upon all the inhabitants of any means and wishing them a good new year, expecting a *douceur* in return. The practice was found to lead to partialities by these officials in the discharge of their duties, and was abolished in 1819, when each of the officers was allowed 30s. in lieu of those "handsel fees."

The two small bells belonging to the kirk were so damaged by tolling, the one on the occasion of the death of Queen Charlotte, consort of George III., and the other on the occasion of the interment of an old lady belonging to the town, that the council were obliged to have them both recast in 1820, and since then the practice of tolling the bells at private funerals has been discontinued, although, when royalty is laid in the dust, the bells are yet tolled under the direction of the regular bell-ringer.

In February 1821, the council appointed sworn valuers, to appraise the properties held in feu of them, when these subjects should be in non-entry, upon which occasion the council stated it as their unanimous opinion, "that a composition of two-third parts of the rents, payable to the vassals, should be demanded and paid to the superiors, that is, of the yearly rent where the houses or tenements are new and in good repair, but a smaller proportion, if the houses are old and in bad repair; but, in all cases, a full year's rent of the vassal's land, which is cropped, ought to be demanded." This rule has been acted upon ever since, but the council are not rigid over lords.

George IV. visited Scotland in 1822, when the council of Brechin, following the example of other burghs, voted him a loyal address; and farther voted £10, 10s. of a subscription towards the bronze statue

of that king which now stands in George's Street, Edinburgh.

Mr. John Wood, engineer, from Edinburgh, was, at this time, travelling Scotland, making plans of each burgh, and the town council of Brechin subscribed for ten copies of his plan of the town of Brechin. Mr. Wood was successful in procuring other subscriptions, and the plan was accordingly completed and published in 1823.

On 6th March 1823, the heckle houses at the Muckle Mill took fire, in consequence of an escape of gas, as was understood, from one of the pipes of the private Gas Work belonging to the mill. The whole range of these buildings, with the materials in them, were destroyed, although water was in abundance in the neighbourhood, and every exertion was made to save the premises. Luckily for the parties interested, an insurance had been effected, a few days before, with the Sun Fire Office, to almost the value of the buildings and flax thus destroyed.

A public Dispensary, for affording medicines to the poor of the place, was established in 1823, and was then so endowed from subscriptions and donations, that it is enabled to supply all demands upon it, with very few occasional calls on the richer members of the community.

A bridge at the Stannochoy Ford, over the river Southesk, was begun in 1823, and towards the erection, the council gave £42 from the corporation funds. The other expenses were defrayed by the heritors in the immediate neighbourhood.

About this time died Craizin, a well known blind beggar, who had frequented Brechin and the sur-

rounding country for fifty years, and amused old and young with his songs :

“ His name was Jamie ; but the rest, alas !  
 Has vanish'd from my memory.——  
 ‘ We’ll gang nae mair a Cruisin,’ was one song,  
 But he had many, though from that there came  
 The sound which most amused the listening throng,  
 And hence the title CRUIZIN grew a name.”

So sung Mr. James Bowick, editor of the *Montrose Review*, when announcing in that paper, the death of Cruizin. The poet himself, alas ! is since numbered with the dead : a worthy, simple-minded, good man he was.

A railway along Strathmore was projected in 1825, and the council of Brechin subscribed £10, 10s. towards the expense of the survey from Brechin to Forfar. The project went no farther than a plan, but may be perfected at some future period, as the scheme appears practicable and likely to pay.

An unfortunate fire happened this year in a stable belonging to a publican, who had converted part of the old Maisondieu Chapel into a receptacle for carriers’ horses. It was supposed that one of the carriers had carelessly snuffed a candle and thrown the snuff unextinguished amongst the wet straw :—So it was that the straw was consumed, and though no flame was observed, such a smoke arose that all the horses were destroyed. The misfortune was discovered by the stamping of the horses, and when the stable door was opened, one of the animals burst from its stall, rushed to the door, turned suddenly round, leaped a paling of some 8 feet high, and fell dead. Others expired in their stalls. Two or three lingered for days unable to eat or drink. Eight or ten very valu-

able horses were thus destroyed. Two grey horses of great size and strength, and of very considerable sagacity, survived longest. It was really melancholy to see the sufferings of these poor brutes, and no less melancholy to observe the distress of their driver, who spoke of them as friends, and bestowed as much attention upon them as he could have done upon his own family: The poor horses seemed really sensible of, and grateful for, their driver's kindness.

The East Back Vennel was widened and its steepness lessened, in 1827, and it was then dignified with the title of "City Road." The Latch Road, formerly a mere swamp, was made out the same season, and has since given an opportunity for building a number of neat villas in that part of the town. An arrangement was also, this year, made with David Blair, Esquire, of Cookston, in regard to the Dove Wells, by which the rights of the town and of Mr. Blair were distinctly defined in a decree arbitral, pronounced by Andrew Robertson, Esquire, sheriff-substitute of Forfarshire; and, in consequence of which arrangement, and the improvements made in virtue of it, the town has since been amply supplied with water. In the December of this year, also, the council renewed an old act, by which any party proposing to build within the burgh, is obliged to call the dean of guild, with one of the bailies, to the spot, and to satisfy them and his neighbours regarding his plans. This mode of proceeding has been found highly advantageous for the public, and greatly destructive of litigation; for where disputes do exist, as they will exist, regarding petty marches, the parties interested being confronted before judges, anxious to bring them to an

agreement, do almost always make arrangements, frequently for the advantage of both, and which arrangements would not have been thought of, had each stood on his *right* and gone to law to ascertain who was wrong. The proceedings are conducted by printed formal papers, which terminate in what is called a building warrant, and the whole expense varies from 2s. 6d. to 5s. It is but bare justice to the legal gentlemen to say that they have done every thing in their power to make this summary court, so prejudicial to their interests, work to advantage; and it does accordingly work well for the public.

The lands, called the Crofts of Brechin, were bought by the council in 1828. These lands had belonged to a Mr. M'Gregor, servant to the Duchess of Perth, who went abroad with his mistress, in 1747, after the fall of Prince Charles' party, to which she was devoted; and, in the absence of the proprietor, the titles had got into confusion in consequence of heritable securities granted by him, very likely with the view of avoiding a forfeiture of the ground, to which he had rendered himself liable by his connexion with the Stuarts. All matters were, however, cleared up, and the council became absolute proprietors of a piece of ground upon which they had long exercised the right of holding a market. Being vested with the absolute right, the council enclosed the ground and changed the site of the weekly cattle-market, held each Tuesday, during winter, from the Crofts to the Timber Market, alike to the advantage of the proprietors of the Timber Market, as to the comfort of the farmers, who in the Croft Market were often wading ankle-deep among mud.



Another change by a different body, but one no less an improvement, was made this year. On 25th September 1828, the six trades entered this act in their minute book: "Which day the deacon convener, deacons and trades' councillor, and whole trades having met and deliberately considered the serious inconveniences resulting to the trades from the practice of meeting in the church-yard, for the purpose of their annual elections, both from the inclemency of the weather and the disturbance and annoyance of the multitude, as well as considering the impropriety, if not indecency, of assembling multitudes and transacting their business over the graves of their ancestors, and of their friends and families, have unanimously resolved, enacted, statuted and ordained, that, in future, the whole trades shall assemble in their ordinary place of meeting, for the purpose of electing the deacon convener, trades' councillor, their respective deacons, and other office-bearers, and appoint this regulation and minute to be engrossed in the record of the respective incorporations." In consequence of this enactment, the subsequent elections of the trades have been held in the mason lodge, which they selected as "their ordinary place of meeting." We recollect enjoying a very hearty laugh at the last election which took place in the burying-ground, although certainly the place forbade such demonstrations. On the occasion alluded to, we had wandered into the kirk-yard to notice the excitement created by the elections; and, observing *three* individuals seated demurely on a burial stone, we approached them, just as the clock struck eleven, and just as the three individuals started up into active life.

One produced a paper, and read, "The K. trade have leeted A. and B. for deacons—any objections to that leet?" said the reader, deacon C. "None," replied A.; "None," replied B. "For whom do you vote, deacon A.?" said C. "For myself," rejoined A. "For whom do you vote, deacon B.?"—"For A.," replied he.—"And I vote for A., added C., and that settles that election." He read again from his paper, "The K. trade have leeted C. and B. for treasurer—any objections to the leet?" None were offered. "For whom do you vote, deacon A.?"—"For B.," was the answer. "For whom do you vote, deacon B.?"—"For myself," was the reply. "And I vote for B., said deacon C., and that closes the election." These three worthies were the whole members of the trade who had a right to vote, or, at least, who chose to exercise the right of voting at elections; and, accordingly, they handed the two offices about, amongst themselves, quite in an agreeable manner.

This year died Alexander Malcolm, one of the public characters of Brechin. For more than half a century Sandy had picked up a living by "gatherin' bawbees for himsel," as he phrased it; and on each public occasion, be it sorrowing or rejoicing, wedding or burial, Sandy bore an active part, although the king's birth-day, kept as it was in the days of George III., by a general saturnalia, was the principal occasion through the year on which Sandy chose to disport. Mr. Bowick, in his sketches of characters, describes "Sandy Maukim" as

—"Ane curious wight, of stature low,  
Withouten trows to clothe his naked knee,  
But clad in petticoat, that down did flow,  
With fringes tattered to ane great degree."

No leathern shoon upon his feet had he,  
But worsted huggars, which contrived to hide  
His legs and feet."

Malcolm was a great wag, and fond of a glass, partly rogue, partly simpleton. He had the misfortune to break his leg one winter, being, as was alleged, much inebriated at the time. A pious clergyman in town called to pray with Sandy, and rated him soundly for his inebriety, to which the minister ascribed the misfortune of the broken leg. Sandy denied the charge, but the clergyman persisted in it; and Malcolm, hard pressed, burst out in a sly manner with "How's mistress' B——'s leg"—the pastor's lady had met with a similar accident, certainly not from the same cause, although Sandy insinuated as much, to get rid of the good man's farther reproofs.

A printing-office was, for the first time, established in Brechin, in 1829. This volume issues from the Brechin press, and displays a fair specimen of the typography of the establishment. The principal employment of the Brechin printers is the printing of handbills, circulars, and the like. The press is a great convenience to the inhabitants, who were formerly obliged to go to Montrose or Forfar for any thing which they required in the printing line.

Most of the rivers in Scotland were greatly flooded in August 1829. The South Esk rose far above its banks, covered the greater part of the Inch, and put the inhabitants of the Lower Tenements in a state of blockade, the whole road from the Ford-mouth down to the bridge being under water, in some places to the depth of two or three feet; but no serious damage was done, and, indeed, the people on the banks

of the South Esk had to congratulate themselves that few who lived near rivers escaped so easily.

The death of George IV., and accession of William IV., led to a new election of parliament in 1830, and an entry in the council books of the time is strongly characteristic of the excitement then prevailing. This entry bears that letters were laid on the table from Mr. Joseph Hume, the then late member for this district of burghs, soliciting to be re-elected; "also a letter of 3d July, on the same subject, from the Honourable J. E. Kennedy Erskine of Dun, and a similar letter from Mr. Lindsay of Edinburgh, on behalf of Captain Ross of Rossie; and it was also stated that Sir James Carnegie, baronet, of Southesk, and Mr. Smith, of the house of Messrs. Smith, Payne and Smiths of London, had applied, verbally, to the council." Mr. Hume was returned to serve in that parliament for Middlesex, and Sir James Carnegie was elected for this district, after a very keen and *outrageous* contest. Mr. Ross succeeded Sir James in the next parliament, and he again was succeeded by Mr. Chalmers of Auldbar, the present worthy representative. On the occasion of the contest in 1830, the Brechin press, then recently established, was called into active duty, and there being, as yet, no local newspaper, the candidates for parliamentary and civic honours have since repeatedly applied to the same medium for spreading, in the shape of placards or circular letters, either their own merits or the demerits of their rivals, and occasionally both.

The butcher trade purchased up, in 1830, an immunity from the service of attending the magistrates to the fairs; and the craft having sold all their pro-

party and divided their funds amongst the members, the butchers ceased to exist either as a corporation or society. Unfortunately, almost all the other societies in the town, and, indeed, in Scotland, followed a similar course, and thus a source of support for the aged and sick was at once withdrawn, the effect of which is only now beginning to be felt. Doubtless, these friendly societies were founded upon erroneous data, but the regulations of most of them might have been altered, and the scales of contribution and disbursement adjusted so as to meet each other. The government had passed acts for the *improvement* of these societies; the contributors became apprehensive that government meant to take hold of their funds, and hence, the almost universal breaking up which followed the act of parliament. To add to the evil in Brechin, a Savings' Bank, which had existed for many years, also began to fall into disrepute, and was finally dissolved about this time.

The council, in this year, for the first time, organised a set of special constables; a body which still continues, and has proved of considerable advantage in preserving the peace of the burgh. About forty gentlemen are annually sworn in, who elect from among themselves a captain for the whole, with a lieutenant and ensign for each of the three districts into which the town is divided; the first or north division comprehending all to the north of the Upper West Wynd; the third or south division comprehending all to the south of the South Port, and the second, or centre division, comprehending all that lies between the other two.

Cholera visited Brechin in 1831-2, and a board of

health was formed in consequence, under sanction of a proclamation by his Majesty in council. The cases of actual cholera which occurred were few, not exceeding a dozen, but bowel complaints were very common at the time. It is, however, worthy of remark, that the general health of the community was not bad, and that there were fewer deaths this winter than usual. It may be questionable how far a board, such as that alluded to, can prevent contagion; but, certainly, this board did much in removing nuisances, and we must say that the burgh has been more cleanly since the alarm of cholera.

Amongst the victims to the cholera were the wife and daughter of one of the Brechin characters, a poor but honest man, David Walker. This person, generally stiled "Davidie Walker," was the regular, and for long the only *carrier* between Brechin and Arbroath. Davidie generally rode his cart, driving horses that seemed to have escaped from the tan-yard, purposely to keep him company, but animals which he was wont to describe as "fine norae, fine norse, fit for a caravan." The distance travelled was about 12 miles; and David, steady in all his movements, seldom occupied more than 6 or 7 hours in travelling the road. Well, one fine frosty evening, David left Arbroath in the pale moonshine, about his usual hour, six o'clock, and progressed his way to Brechin with his load, drawn tandem fashion; and to beguile the way, David had one outside passenger, a sprig of womankind, seated on the top of his vehicle, while his faithful cur walked by the side of the cart. Matters went on swingingly, certainly not *smoothly*, till about mid-way, when poor David's cart stuck fast in the mud. The cattle were

whipped ; the shoulder was applied to the vehicle ; but all in vain, move it would not. David, however, was fertile in devices ; he loosed the tracer, leaped on its back, left the cart and wheel-horse in charge of his dog, and, desiring the woman to sit still, went off, giving her this assurance, "there's help at hand, help at hand." The poor woman sat till benumbed by cold, when she thought of leaving the top of the cart to take a little exercise. Then she, for the first time, discovered that, truly, Help was at hand ; for David's dog, faithful to its charge, would allow nothing to leave the cart, and the poor female was compelled, by Help, (the dog) to keep her seat on the top of the cart for six hours, starving of hunger, and almost frozen to an icicle, till David arrived from Brechin with a third horse to pull her out of the mire.

The alarm of the cholera, it was thought by some, presented an opportunity for establishing a temperance society, an institution which, however, never thrived in Brechin, and which, notwithstanding the many good effects it was calculated to promote, scarcely outlived the year 1832 in which it had its rise.

A new road, direct between Dundee and Brechin by the Stannachy Bridge, through the parish of Aberlemno, and by the village of Letham to the old road at Luckyslap, was planned in 1832, and partly executed in that and the following year—it is not yet completed. The town council of Brechin subscribed £200 to assist the undertaking.

On 21st August 1832, the first list of persons, claiming right to choose a member of parliament as proprietors or occupants of subjects of the value of £10, was made up under the act then recently pas-

sed. The total number of persons who so claimed was 237, of whom 9 were found disqualified, either from errors in their claims or other causes, thus leaving a constituency of 228, in place of the 13 members of council who formerly possessed this right.

The death of the rector of the grammar-school, Mr. Linton, who had been teacher in Brechin for half-a-century, gave an opportunity, in 1832-33, of new modelling the schools; and after a great deal of consultation, and no little bickering, it was arranged that there should be three teachers, a rector to teach the languages and higher branches of education, a parochial schoolmaster to teach English reading, writing and arithmetic, the branches naturally expected to be taught in a parish school; and a burgh schoolmaster who should teach the same branches; as the population of the town and parish seemed to afford ample field for two teachers of these, the really necessary branches of education. The schools have been thus regulated ever since, and, in our opinion, the system works fairly. In a place the size of Brechin, there is not room for minute sub-divisions of the labour of teaching, nor is there wealth sufficient for the increase of fees to which subdivision necessarily leads. The patrons have been peculiarly lucky in selecting teachers for the schools of Brechin, which, no doubt, contributes considerably to the well working of the system of teaching adopted. The rector, by an arrangement with the town council, has a salary of 50 guineas in lieu of the rents, casualties, &c., arising from the præceptory of Maisondieu and the rectory. The burgh schoolmaster has £30 from the town and £5 generously given by Mr. Chalmers of Auldbar, making



his salary £35. The parochial schoolmaster again is allowed £34 by the heritors, and £10 by the town, raising his salary to £44. The fees are very moderate. In the rector's department, the quarterly payments are—French 3s., Latin 4s., Latin and French 4s. 6d., Greek 5s., Latin and Greek 5s., Geography 2s. 6d., French and Geography 4s., Latin and Geography 5s., Euclid 5s., Euclid and Latin 5s.; other branches including combinations of the above, 6s. 6d. During winter each pupil in the rector's class pays the master 1s. for coal-money, but no other fees or gratuities are payable. In the other two schools the fees are—reading 2s. 6d.; writing, 2s. 6d.; reading and writing 3s. 6d.; arithmetic, with, or without reading and writing, 4s. 6d.; book-keeping and practical mathematics 5s. But there is another class of scholars belonging to the burgh and parish school who are taught for even less fees. These are the partial or half-day scholars, those who are pupils at other schools, for whom there is provided this scale of fees—reading 1s. 6d., writing 1s. 6d., arithmetic 2s., reading and writing 2s., practical mathematics 2s., reading, writing and arithmetic 2s. 6d. English grammar, recitation and history, impose an additional 6d. per quarter on both classes of pupils. During winter the half-day scholars pay 6d. each, and the whole-day scholars 1s. each, to provide fuel for the burgh and parish schools. No other fees or gratuities of any description are payable in these departments.

In 1833 the council bought the ground adjoining the crofts formerly belonging to Mr. Robertson of Bangston. In consequence of this and of the previous purchase of the crofts, the council were, in 1837, en-

abled to open two new streets, Pannure Street running west from Swan Street and Clerk Street, and Southesque Street communicating with Pannure Street, and running south from Clerk Street, at the top of the Dea, down by a beautiful sweep to the Montrose road at the Cadgerhilloek. By means of these new streets, a road of easy ascent to the top of the town, long a desideratum, was secured. The ground along the north side of Pannure Street, the west side of Southesque Street from Pannure Street upwards, and on the east side of Clerk Street, was sold off by the council for building stances at such a rate as fully to indemnify the community for all the money they had disbursed in the purchase of the property. Pannure Street and Southesque Street were so called out of respect to the two principal proprietors in the parish; and the names were bestowed when the streets were lined off. Scales Lane, which leads out of Pannure Street, was also then named, in commemoration of a person to whom the crofts had at one time belonged, and by whose surname they were distinguished in the title-deeds of the adjoining properties as "Scales' Acre." Clerk Street obtained its name in 1829, when the town-clerk built the first house, erected expressly for a dwelling-house in that part of the town.

A new washing-house, fitted up with fixed tubs, and supplied with hot and cold water, was erected at the Inch in 1833, and put under such regulations as to afford ample accommodation, at a very moderate rate, for the inhabitants. At first, the regular washerwomen were in arms against this innovation, but experience has convinced them that it adds much to

their comfort and convenience, and now they are highly delighted with the ample accommodation which they enjoy for washing and drying clothes. The resort of customers, too, has been such that the washing-house, although expensive in the erection, has, from the rent drawn, afforded a fair return to the town for the capital expended. In October 1837, it was let for £23, 5s. for the year following. Besides the Inch bleaching-green, which consists of about an acre of ground, there is a small bleaching-green at the North Port, and another at the foot of the Den Nursery, both well supplied with running water, and the use of which the inhabitants enjoy gratuitously.

In 1833, the council gave £50 to aid in repairing the road between Arbroath and Brechin. This road is still far from excellent, but it is now passable, since improved at the expense of the adjoining heritors and of the burghs of Brechin and Arbroath, and it is good compared to what it was when our late friend "Davidie Walker" travelled it.

It was in 1833 that the council first ventured to abridge any of their markets. Lammas Muir, as the market held in August is called, had, from the change in the mode of farming, dwindled to a petty fair; and, on 14th August 1833, a proclamation was published, recommending to dealers to bring forward their stock of sheep, horses, and black cattle, (as the Bovarian race, whether white, yellow or brown, are denominated) on the Thursday, in place of bringing the sheep on Wednesday, cows and oxen on Thursday, and horses on Friday, as formerly. The market has since been held on the second Thursday of August, yearly, and, although not a great fair, is now a respectable market.

On 5th November of this year 1833, the first election took place under the burgh reform act, which vested the election of the council in the holders or occupiers of property of the yearly value of £10, and annulled the law which allowed the old council to elect the new.

It was on 11th September 1834, that the Right Honourable Henry, Lord Brougham and Vaux, visited Brechin, upon which occasion the greater part of the council, incorporations and burgesses, turned out in their best array to greet the Lord High Chancellor of England, and the freedom of the burgh was presented to that nobleman on a platform erected in the cathedral church, the ancient pile being crowded with the inhabitants of Brechin and the multitudes assembled from the neighbouring towns and neighbouring country. On the early part of the same day a public meeting had been held, at which it was resolved to establish a Joint Stock Company for lighting up the town with gas. The Gas-Work has since proceeded successfully, and the streets, shops, public buildings, and most of the private houses, are now lighted with gas. It may, therefore, be said that the two great lights of the age were made denizens of Brechin on the same day! As a gentleman, whose wit was not very brilliant, used to say, when he murdered a bon mot, "that's a pun."

A Mechanics' Institution was established in Brechin on 25th July, 1835, and, under the patronage which Lord Panmure has since extended to it, by commencing to erect a hall and library for the accommodation of the members, it will surely flourish.

The proposal for a railway between Brechin and

Montrose was revived in 1835, but, after a plan and report, it was again found that the concern would not pay, and, accordingly, it remains for another generation to see this so often bruited proposal carried into effect. The town council voted £50 for the plans obtained, and it is but proper to say that the engineers employed, Messrs Grainger and Miller, did every justice to the measure.

In 1836-7 an infant school was erected on a piece of ground lying between the Path Wynd and the Cadger Wynd, a very suitable situation for such an establishment. The house, grounds and premises, are commodious, and the directors having been fortunate in their selection of teachers, may safely congratulate themselves on doing much for the moral and religious habits of the rising generation, and for the promotion of a taste for cleanliness and order amongst the lower ranks, still a great desideratum in Scotland. The funds of the institution, we believe, are scarce adequate to the demands upon it, but the wealthier classes in the burgh and surrounding country, liberal to a wish in most cases, will not permit so promising a school to go down for want of money.

In 1836 an addition was made to the public servants by the purchase of a horse, Donald by name, for the use of the burgh, in carting fulzie, rubbish, &c. Donald's salary is not, so far as we know, as yet fixed by any act of council. The Lower Wynd was, this year, levelled and macadamized, and the High Street from the Bishop's Closs to the South Port was improved in the same manner, a very considerable hollow being filled up opposite the Mill Stairs, which reduced the sudden steepness of the street by many feet. But

Brechin is built on a hill, and notwithstanding all the improvements on the streets—and they have been many of late years—it is, and must be always a heavy pull from the lower to the higher part of the town.

A long contemplated sale of a piece of ground at the Trinity Muir market stance, and skirting the toll road, was carried into effect in 1836. The purchasers have since named the place Trinity Village, and built several neat houses which, no doubt, will be soon rivalled by others to be erected by the rest of the feuars. The council had previously cut the wood growing on an isolated portion of muir at Little Brechin, and they disposed of the ground, by public roup, on the day of the sale of the lots at Trinity Village. Both sales brought good prices, and left the council and community no room to regret that they had made a number of new lairds and voters in the county.

The jail has been constantly receiving improvements. In 1836-37 it was thoroughly repaired, cleaned and altered, having then, in our opinion, received as many improvements as its situation renders it susceptible of, but remaining, as it must ever do, a secondary jail. The town-hall, too, was repainted, lighted up with gas and otherwise improved this season. In short, improvement, in its march, has reached Brechin, and its inhabitants are progressing with the tide and the times.

In 1837 a bill was brought into parliament to enable the sheriffs to hold courts in each town in their shires for the disposal of small debt cases. The bill proposed to give only four courts yearly to Brechin ; but, on the application of the council, backed by their indefatigable representative, Mr. Chalmers, six

courts were appointed to be held annually at Brechin. The measure is yet in its infancy, but we predicate that it will be farther extended, and prove of the utmost benefit to this and to every other burgh in the kingdom.

The official intimation of the demise of William IV., reached Brechin about 2 o'clock of 24th June 1837; the town council were immediately assembled; and, in two hours afterwards, Victoria was proclaimed Queen of Great Britain and Ireland at the Market Cross of Brechin.

In the course of making some excavation at the East Mill brae in 1837, several graves containing beads of a round black substance were discovered. The bodies were found interred after the manner of the ancient Britons, doubled up in kistaveens—or between stones placed upright on their edges, and covered with thin slabs. The spot where the bodies were found had a southern exposure, and lay close upon the banks of the Esk, within a mile of the Cross of Brechin, at the place called the Middle Den of Leuchland.

An act was obtained on 3d July 1837, for improving the harbour of Montrose, in virtue of which the town council of Brechin was authorised to appoint four trustees to attend, jointly with others named by the county and the burgh of Montrose, to the interests of that port. Under this authority the town council of Brechin, on 7th August 1837, named Messrs. David Guthrie, David Lamb, James Hood and Thomas Ogilvy, merchants in Brechin, as trustees from Brechin.

The town council, shortly after the passing of the Municipal Reform Act, agreed to meet statedly on the first Monday of each month; but this having been

found a rather inconvenient day, it was agreed on 1st January 1838, that, in future, the council should meet on the *second* Monday of each month at 6 o'clock evening. Besides these stated meetings, the town council meet, on other occasions, when business requires them, upon getting 24 hours' notice.

The High Street, from the Prentice-Neuk to the Lower West Wynd, was levelled and macadamized during the spring of this year, and the Timber Market was similarly improved during the summer; so that the only street remaining within the burgh, paved with "whin bullets," is the Path Wynd, and it will likely soon be subjected to the same process which the other streets have undergone.

But the great event connected with Brechin during the year 1838, is the rebuilding of the Public Schools. The want of a proper Lecture Room and Library for the Mechanics' Institution, and the demand for accommodation for the increasing number of pupils at the Grammar-School, Parish School, and Burgh School, had struck Lord Panmure, and his lordship most nobly proposed to erect, at his own expense, on the site of the old schools, a handsome new building of two stories, surmounted by a tower and containing apartments to accommodate all these institutions. After no little consultation as to the plan of the building, and the individuals in whom the property ought to be vested, every thing was finally arranged in the month of February 1838. The *constitution* is most liberal. The property is feudally vested in the town council of Brechin, to be held by them as trustees, under the direction of four managers, one to be named triennially by each of the patrons of the



Parish School, the patrons of the Burgh School, the patrons of the Grammar-School, and the patrons of the Mechanics' Institution. These patrons are again respectively declared to be, of the Grammar-School, the magistrates and town council of Brechin; of the Parish School, the heritors holding land rated at £100 Scots of valued rent, the minister of the parish, and the magistrates of Brechin; of the Burgh School, the town council of Brechin; and of the Mechanics' Institution, the life members, the provost and two bailies of Brechin, the dean and treasurer of the guildry incorporation, the deacon convener of the incorporated trades, the heritors who are patrons of the Parish School, and the preses, treasurer and secretary of the Mechanics' Institution. It will be observed that Lord Panmure reserved no controul over the erection; nay, when it was urged upon him, he positively refused to have a voice more than any other heritor. The coronation of Queen Victoria having been fixed for the 28th June 1838, it was resolved to make that day a gala day in Brechin, and then to lay the foundation stone of the public schools. This proposal, in parliamentary phrase, was carried *ne mine contradicente*. Every one set himself to work more anxiously than another to make a day of it. A Fantoccini Theatre, then in the Mason Lodge, was laid open at the expense of Lord Panmure, from nine o'clock morning to six o'clock afternoon, for the amusement of all the children attending all the schools, public and private, within the burgh. Lord Panmure entertained all the tradesmen connected with the building of the schools, in Bruce's Crown Hotel. The incorporated trades had a dinner at their own cost in Walker's

Cross Guns' Tavern. A subscription dinner took place in M'Bain's Swan Inn. Several other similar convivial parties met in different parts of the town. Each burghess was furnished, from the burgh funds, with a ticket of the value of 1s. 6d. The guildry made a like provision for their members. The widows and orphans of the different incorporations had a similar gift, while private charity provided a something for most of the poor who had no corporate claims. Lord Panmure and Mr. Cruikshank of Stracathro were at the expense of a grand display of fire-works for the amusement of the publick after nightfall. And, finally, a subscription ball took place in the town-hall and was kept up with great harmony to an early hour next morning. The procession, however, was the main point of the day. At 11 o'clock forenoon, exactly, the procession marched off in this order:—Three constables; Odd Fellow Society; Messrs. Heberton, Wilson and Laing, private teachers, with their pupils, four a-breast; three constables; trades-officer; six incorporated trades, three a-breast; Brechin band of music; three constables; town-officers; pupils of the public schools, four a-breast; town council, clergy, masters of public schools and directors of Mechanics' Institution, four and four; St. James' Lodge of Masons; Stephens' band of music; guildry incorporation, burghesses and handicraftsmen, all three a-breast. The procession thus marshalled, proceeded from the Town-Hall down the High-Street, but scarce had they started when flashes of lightning were succeeded by violent peals of thunder and torrents of rain. Still, "On" was the word, and although some anxious mothers took away their children, the great majority proceeded, along

with the other members of the procession, down the Cadger Wynd, up Southesque Street and through Panmure Street, arches of flowers being raised over these new streets in honour of their being thus publickly opened ; up Clerk Street went the procession, round the Distillery Lane, down the Timber Market, round by Upper West Wynd and St. Mary Street, to the schools. The rain, though violent, did not continue any length of time, and when the multitude reached the new building the day was fine. The bands of music, pupils of the public schools, town council, clergy, teachers of the public schools, directors of Mechanics' Institution and St. James' Lodge of masons, entered the square of the schools, where they were joined by Lady Panmure and a party from Brechin Castle. The masonic ceremony of laying the foundation stone was then gone through in capital style, Mr. James Laing, surgeon, acting as master of St. James' Lodge, and the reverend Robert Inglis of Lochlee as chaplain. In a stone in the middle set of the base course of the front of the building, and between the north-west abutement and north-west octagon turret of the tower, the stone being that adjoining the turret, was deposited a glass vase, containing the coins of the realm, an Angus Register, the newspapers of the day, a copy of the tables on weights and measures published by Mr. William Shiress, writer in Brechin, a printed copy of the contract of the gas company, a list of the special constables of the burgh, the regulations and fees of the public schools, and a variety of other local publications, including a Programme of the procession. The vase also contained the following inscription :—

This Building was Erected  
 For the accommodation of the Teachers of the Youth of  
 Brechin, and their Pupils,  
 By the Noble Munificence of  
 The Right Honourable  
 William,  
 Baron Panmure of Brechin and Navar.  
 1838.

John Henderson, Architect :  
 Robert Millar, Mason :  
 Robert Memes, Carpenter :  
 Robert Welsh, Plasterer :  
 David Shiress, Slater :  
 John Wilson, Plumber.

The vase likewise contained another inscription,  
 written in Latin, of which the following is a copy :—

Gulielmi  
 Panmurij Baronis, Brechinensis et Navarensis,  
 Liberalitate Munificentissima,  
 Hoc Ædificium,  
 In Usus Juventutis Brechinensis, Qui Literarum  
 Studijs Dent Operam, Necnon et Præceptorum,  
 Conditum Est,  
 Anno Domini, MDCCCXXXVIII.

Joanne Henderson, Architecto :  
 Roberto Millar, Fabro Murario :  
 Roberto Memes, Fabro Lignario :  
 Roberto Welsh, Cæmentario :  
 Davide Shiress, Scandulario :  
 Joanne Wilson, Plumbario.

The masonic ceremony was very imposing, and when the sweet infant voices of the pupils, aided by the deeper tones of some professional gentlemen, raised the Queen's Anthem, while the thunder rolled over the heads of the assembled multitude, the effect was really sublime. Many was the deep drawn sigh which we heard, and not a few faces were bedewed with tears ; the best feelings of the heart were awakened and thus found utterance. The ceremony being completed, three cheers were given in grateful acknowledgment of the obligation which the inhabitants of Brechin lay under to Lord Panmure for erecting the new seminaries. The procession afterwards moved by the Lower Wynd to the High Street, where the Queen's Anthem, and other pieces of music, vocal and instrumental, were performed in honour of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, and the whole assemblage then broke up, after giving three hearty huzzas for the youthful queen.

Thus, from sunrise to *sunrise*, Thursday 28th June 1838, was one continued round of amusement to the old and the young, the rich and the poor of Brechin, and we are truly happy to record that all these festivities went off without the slightest accident, and, as we believe, to the satisfaction of every person.

With the account of the proceedings on this auspicious day, we close the continuous history of the important burgh of Brechin.

## CHAPTER X.

## BRECHIN IN 1828.

HAVING finished the historical part of our work, we propose to devote this chapter to a statistical account of Brechin, town and parish, and to a notice of the buildings and other particulars worthy of observation in the burgh—in brief, having looked on Brechin, hitherto, as it was, we mean now to look to it as it is.

THE PARISH OF BRECHIN extends in length, from east to west, about 7 miles, and in breadth, from north to south, about 6 miles. It contains about  $24\frac{1}{2}$  square miles. The river South Esk, or Esque, runs through the parish in a south-easterly direction, and is the only river in it. The parish of Brechin is bounded by the parishes of Menmuir and Strickathro on the north; by Farnell on the south; by Clarendon on the west; and by Dun on the east; while, on the south-west, it marches with Aberlemno. The only hill of any considerable eminence in the parish is the hill of Burkell, to the south-west of the town, sometimes spelled Burghill and Buttergillhill; but the sloping ground on which the town is built is no mean hill, and the high lands of Maisondiem, Pittendrieh and Barzelwell, on the north-west of the town, are rising grounds of some consequence. The greater part of the parish, however, is composed of level or gently sloping ground. The soil is, in general, light but good. The total number of imperial acres in the parish is estimated at 15,840, of which 9802

are under tillage, 3268 under wood, and 2770 in muirs and waste ground. Large quantities of corn, the produce of the parish, are annually exported. The cumulo valued rent of the parish is £8,772, 4s. 2d. scots. The real rental of the land is supposed to be about £14,000. The average rent is about 27s. per imperial acre. The mode of husbandry followed, is, for the most part, agreeable to the modern improvements. Land in grass is generally let for the season at from 20s. to 35s. per imperial acre. The principal green crops raised in the parish, are turnips and potatoes for domestic purposes, and feeding cattle, few potatoes being exported. Wheat is generally sown after the potatoe crop. From the fourth to the sixth part of of each farm is usually sown with turnips or planted with potatoes, each year, unless on farms adapted for wheat, in which case a proportion is fallowed. No beet, and few cabbages are cultivated. No meadow hay is raised in the parish. Of flax there are only a few acres annually sown. Few sheep are reared in the parish, and these are generally of the kind called black-faced. The horses are now of the common size usual throughout the southern parts of Scotland. The other cattle are mostly of that breed, known as peculiar to Angus-shire, middle-sized, and well formed. Of late, however, the short-horned breed has been introduced, and a few Teeswater and Ayrshire cows may occasionally be seen on the pasture lands. The management of cattle is well understood and attended to. The length of leases is generally nineteen years; leases of this duration being considered more favourable than those for a shorter period; but lands, in the close vicinity of the town, are often let on leases to

endure from 5 to 14 years. The state of farm-buildings and enclosures is good, the buildings being usually of stone and lime, and slated, and the fences principally dry-stone walls, although hedge rows are becoming more prevalent. For temporary enclosures, flakes are generally used, consisting of four longitudinal spars of 9 feet each, morticed into a spar of about 4 feet of height at each end, the flakes being bolted together by pins, and supported at each joining by lateral posts, sloping to the ground, at an angle of 50 degrees or so. Improvements have been general throughout the parish during the last forty or fifty years. Some 50 years ago a medical practitioner in the town took a good deal of land in the vicinity of the burgh, and set to work seriously to improve it. For this purpose he bought great quantities of dung, and raised the price from 9d. or 10d., to 1s. the cart load, when a worthy magistrate of the city, also a farmer in a small way, gave up purchasing manure, declaring "he would drive no one-shilling dung." Manure now fetches, in the burgh, from 5s. to 10s. each load, according to the quality.

The following has been hazarded as the average gross amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, which some friends with whom we have consulted, consider to be rather under than above the mark :—

Grain of all sorts, . . . . .	£37,000
Potatoes and Turnips, . . . . .	11,000
Hay, . . . . .	3,500

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Carry over, £51,500

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	Brought over, £51,500
Flax, . . . . .	100
Pasture, . . . . .	3,560
Nurseries, Gardens and Orchards, . . . . .	2,000
Woods, Thinnings, &c., . . . . .	300
Stone Quarries, . . . . .	1,500
Lime, . . . . .	1,000
Fisheries in South Esk, and miscellanies, . . . . .	100
	<hr/>
	£60,000
	<hr/>

Agricultural male labourers receive about 9s. per week ; females so employed, 4s. to 5s. per week ; but the latter class is mostly employed during the summer only, while the former may command work in draining &c., all the year round. The usual food of the peasantry is milk, meal, and potatoes, little butcher meat or fish being used by them. The fuel is principally coals and wood.

The inhabitants, according to the census of 1831, were found to be, males 3048, females 3460, together 6508, consisting of 1673 families lodged in 900 houses, of which number of families 306 were ascertained to be engaged in agriculture. This, of course, included the urban district. The rural district contained, males 609, females 749, together 1448 ; families 286 ; employed in agriculture, 186 ; in trade, 68 ; other families, 32 ; inhabited houses, 285 ; uninhabited, 20 ; males upwards of 20 years of age, 361 ; female servants, 145 ; male labourers, 186. In 1755, the population of the parish was supposed to amount to 3181 ; and in 1790 it was guessed at 5000 ; the census of 1811 returned 5559, and that of

1821, gave 5906. No register of marriages is kept, and the register of baptisms is so irregularly used by the inhabitants, that no approximation to the number of births can be drawn from it. The number of burials in the parish, during the year 1836, was 193, and during the year 1837, it was 191, both being unhealthy seasons: in 1838, the number was 129, which is supposed to be about an average of ordinary years. There is an ancient burial place at the eastern extremity of the parish called Magdalene Chapel, although no traces of the chapel now remain. Very few bodies are interred in this cemetery, and those so buried are not included in the register kept by the sextons of the Brechin church-yard, the only other burying place in the parish.

The climate of Brechin is considered temperate and salubrious. Low intermittent fever is the most general complaint, but agues, formerly prevalent, are now rarely heard of, this disease having disappeared when wet lands were drained. A meteorological table, kept for some years by Mr. George Henderson of the Den Nursery, will be found in the appendix.

The northern part of the parish is composed of the old red sandstone, the strata of which range from east to west. The dip of this rock is to the north, with an inclination of about thirty-five degrees. It encloses within it two strata of limestone of various dimensions. The first stratum is from 18 inches to two feet in thickness. The second stratum is composed of loose boulders, mixed with thin layers of argillaceous sandstone, having the same dip as the rock. No animal or vegetable remains are found in the lime or

sandstone strata. Veins of calcareous spar, however, are occasionally met with amongst the lime, which sometimes enclose crystals of sulphate of barytes. There are three lime works in operation, one at West Pittendrieck, tenanted by Mr. James Scott, one at East Pittendrieck, occupied by Mr. George Scott, and a third at Limefield, the property of Messrs. David and Alexander Guthrie. In the southern part of the parish, several stone quarries are wrought, each of which exhibits a fine section of the gray sandstone. This rock is well adapted for building, being of great durability and susceptible of a high polish. The position of the sandstone is nearly horizontal. No metals have been discovered in any part of the parish, so far as is known. There are no plants or animals peculiar to the parish. The *linnea borealis*, a very rare plant, is often found in the woods of Kinnaird, which are partly in this parish and partly in the neighbouring parish of Farnell. The kinds of trees generally planted on moors, are Scotch firs, with sometimes a mixture of larch and spruce, sometimes larch alone; of late years a proportion of hardwood has been planted with the firs, &c. In belts of planting, and in gentlemen's policies, and where there is depth of soil, hard wood is generally planted, no more soft wood being put in than is necessary for shelter to the hard wood, and the soft wood being cut out after a few years, when the other trees have attained sufficient strength and age.

The chief heritors of land in the parish, are, Sir James Carnegie, baronet, of Southesque; Lord Panmure; the Earl of Fife; Patrick Chalmers, Esq. of Auldbar; Robert Speid, Esq. of Ardovie; Charles

Hay Carnegy, Esq. of Pitforthie ; Alexander Cruikshank, Esq. of Keithock ; William Smart, Esq. of Cairnbank ; David Hunter, Esq. of Eskmount ; and David Blair, Esq. of Cookston. Lord Fife, Mr. Chalmers, Mr. Hay Carnegy, and Mr. Blair, have no mansion-houses in the parish ; Mr. Hunter, Mr. Smart, and Mr. Cruikshank having, meantime, let their mansion-houses, are at present non-resident heritors. Kinnaird Castle, the seat of Sir James Carnegie, is in the parish of Farnell. Lord Panmure, and Mr. Speid, are generally resident in the parish of Brechin.

In the parish there are about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles of turnpike road to the west, leading to Forfar, and the same extent to the north in the direction of Aberdeen, and about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the south, proceeding in the direction of Dundee by the Stannachy Bridge across the Esk, a neat bridge of one arch, built in 1823. Nearly one-half of the turnpike of eight miles, leading to Montrose, is also in the parish. Thus, there may be altogether about 14 miles of turnpike road in the parish of Brechin. All the other roads are maintained by an assessment raised under an act of parliament, and laid partly upon houses and land, and partly upon the number of horses, carts, and carriages kept.

The CITY OF BRECHIN is the centre of the parish of that name, in the county of Angus, commonly called Forfarshire, because Forfar is the county town. Brechin is situated in  $2^{\circ} 18'$  west longitude, and  $56^{\circ} 40'$  north latitude, is 8 miles from the seaport of Montrose, 13 from the county town of Forfar, and 42 miles distant from each of Aberdeen and Perth. The

town lies upon the face of a hill, on the left bank of the river Southesk, and consists of one main street running north and south, and breaking off towards the south into two branches. This street bears the name of the Timber Market till the place where it is intersected by Swan Street and the Upper West Wynd, and below that, the name of the High Street till it branches off, when the eastern branch is termed the Cadger Wynd and Cadger-hillock, while within the boundaries of the burgh, and beyond these boundaries this branch has the names of the Cadger-hillock and Upper Tenements. The western branch, again, obtains the titles of the Path Wynd and Muckle Mill; and when it stretches beyond the confines of the burgh, it is termed the Nether Tenements. The road to Arbroath, a bad road, is by the Nether Tenements, across a bridge over the Southesk, an ancient fabric of two arches. The road to Montrose, an excellent road, passing through a most beautiful piece of country, is by the Upper Tenements, which is farther called the Upper Tenements of Caldhame. These two suburbs of Upper and Nether Tenements, are connected together by means of *Paths*, as they are termed. Running west from the north end or head of the High Street, is the Upper Wynd, and running west from the centre of the High Street is the Nether Wynd, both of which wynds are connected by St. Mary Street at the west end, from which proceeds the road to Forfar. Running west from the Upper Wynd, where St. Mary Street commences, is a street called Gold's Yards, with Pearse Street branching off from it, and connecting it with the Latch Road, all of which form egresses to the

country on the west side of the town. Running east from the High Street, and in a line with the Upper Wynd is Swan Street, which leads into Clerk Street, and thence northward across a mound over the Den Nursery to the Gallowhill, from which the road to Aberdeen, a capital toll-road, proceeds. Clerk Street, at the north, is connected with the Timber Market by Distillery Lane, and these run by another road on to Latch Road, at the junction of which the Cookston Road turns off, forming an outlet to the north, being the road used by the inhabitants of the parishes of Lethnot and Navar, and also by most of the inhabitants of the parishes of Menmuir, Dunlappie, &c. From the top of Clerk Street, down the west side of the Den to the Cadger-hillock, a new road has been opened, termed Southesque Street, from which branches off Panmure Street in a straight line with Swan Street, cutting across the bottom of Clerk Street. From the point where Panmure Street, running past James' Place, intersects Clerk Street, the City Road runs south, down to the South Port, so that Clerk Street and City Road pursue the same line on the east, which the Timber Market and High Street do on the west. Besides the streets enumerated, there are Wynds and Closes "too tedious to mention." The river Esk runs upon the south-west side of the town. Parallel to it runs a burn, designated the Michael Den Burn, where it runs through Michael Den, part of the policies of Brechin Castle; the Kirk-yard Burn, where it runs below the church-yard brae; and the Skinners' Burn from the church-yard to the river Esk, because the skinners or tanners formerly had pits upon the side of the burn, at this place, for tan-

ning leather. This burn is of pure water till it leaves Michael Den, but there it begins to collect the impurities of the town, and at the foot of the Mill Stairs the principal common sewer of the city has long joined this burn, which, therefore, has little to boast of in point of beauty or cleanliness. Down the Den again runs another burn which formerly was pure, but is now loaded, during its course through the burgh, with the refuse of the North Port brewery and North Port distillery, and afterwards with that of the Slaughterhouse and Gas Work ; and having become more a nuisance than an ornament, is now put under cover for almost its entire course through the confines of the city. Another burn, the Caldhame Burn, joins this one, near the south end of the Den Nursery, and as it only brings with it the refuse of Glencadam distillery, it is comparatively pure ; but neither of the two tallies with our juvenile recollections of the bonnie wee wimplin' burnie of the Den, here hid with grass and daisies, there expanded into a broad pool, and anon converted into a miniature waterfall.

The properties within the burgh are generally held by burgage tenure, but many are held of the town council in feu from the town, or under that body as patrons of the hospital, and some of the præceptory. The properties in the Nether Tenements are all held in feu from the family of Southesque, and those in the Upper Tenements, again, are held in feu from the family of Panmure. In all cases the feu-duties are small, and the casualties of superiority are not rigorously exacted. All these properties are situated within the parliamentary boundaries, and the inhabitants and proprietors, possessing sufficient qualification,

are entitled to vote for a member of parliament. The parliamentary boundaries, or the boundaries within which property of £10 of annual value must be situated, to give the proprietor or tenant a right to vote in the election of a member of parliament, are thus described in the act 2. and 3., William IV., c. 65 : " From the point, on the south of the town, at which the Skinners' Burn joins the South Esk River, down the South Esk River to the West Den of Leuchland, thence up the hollow of the West Den of Leuchland, and up Barrie's Burn, to the point, near the source of Barrie's Burn, at which the several boundaries of the properties of Caldham, Pitforthie and Unthank meet ; thence in a straight line, in a westerly direction, to the point at which the several boundaries of the properties of Maisondieu and Cookston, and Mr. Mitchell's land meet ; thence, in a south-west direction, along the boundary of the Maisondieu property, to the point at which the same meets the Menmuir road ; thence, in a straight line to the westernmost point at which the Skinners' Burn crosses the Forfar road ; thence, down the Skinners' Burn to the point first described." The registered electors in the parliamentary boundaries of Brechin join with those in Montrose, Arbroath, Forfar, and Inverbervie, in the election of a member to parliament. The number of persons entitled to vote for a member of parliament, at the Brechin polling station, is believed to be 235.

In 1831, the population within the royalty was, males 1615, females 1902, together 3517 ; and in the Upper and Nether Tenements, males 734, females 809, together 1543 ; giving for the parliamentary



boundaries 2349 males, and 2711 females, making a total of 5060. The number of inhabited dwelling-houses in the royalty was, at this time, found to be 425, without the royalty 190, making within the parliamentary boundaries 615 houses, inhabited by 1387 families, of whom 944 resided within the royalty, and 443 in the suburbs, the latter employing 18, the former 190 female servants, giving a total of 208 female servants. The male servants in the royalty were then 26, of whom 17 were above 20 years of age, and 9 under that age—none in the suburbs. The uninhabited houses were, royalty 8, suburbs 4. The number of families residing within these boundaries, engaged in agriculture, was then reckoned at 120; 72 within the royalty, and 48 without the royalty; and of the members of these families, 68 were labourers residing within the royalty, and 35 in the suburbs, together 103. The families engaged in trade, residing within the royalty, were, in 1831, ascertained to be 645, suburbs 317, total 962. Other families within the royalty were estimated at 227, suburbs 78, together 305. The number of unmarried men, upwards of 50 years of age, were supposed to be 144, and of unmarried females, upwards of 45 years of age, 469; these classes, of course, including, respectively, widows and widowers. The number of males, upwards of 20 years of age, was then ascertained to amount, in the royalty, to 878, in the suburbs, to 389, total 1267. The average number of births was supposed, in 1831, to be about 150; of deaths, about 100; and of marriages 55. The number of *Objects* was then found to be 37, consisting of 24 fatuous persons, 10 blind persons, and 3 deaf and dumb.

The habits of the people are, in general, orderly. They are, like most Scotch people, cautious and observant. Many of them are fond of reading, especially works on history, practical theology, and politics. Indeed, the people of Brechin, in general, take a very keen interest in political movements; an interest which they have occasionally displayed in rather a *forcible* manner. The usual food of the labouring people in the burgh, is meal, milk, and potatoes, with a little wheaten bread, fish usually once a-day, and occasionally a bit of butcher meat. Almost every individual has a garden attached to his house, which adds not a little to his comforts and to his amusement. The modern built houses are dry, but those of ancient structure, used by the working classes, are too frequently damp, and not always so cleanly as could be wished. The rents paid by tradesmen for their houses, yearly, are generally about 50s. In their own persons, the inhabitants, especially the females, are neat and tidy. The wages earned by weavers vary according to the abilities of the workmen, from 7s. to 10s.  $\frac{1}{2}$  working week. An able-bodied industrious weaver, may gain weekly, by weaving, taking a whole year, including holidays, into account, 8s. 4d.; the whole male weavers, on the same data, about 6s. 9d.; and the whole weaving population, male and female, amounting to nearly 870, about 5s. 8d.; giving a sum of £246, 10s. weekly, or £12,818 annually, for wages to weavers in Brechin. The weavers work, on an average, about 11 hours each day. Masons in Brechin gain from 12s. to 18s. according to the season of the year; carpenters about 12s. during the year; other workmen about 10s. weekly.

Coals are the chief fuel used by all classes, and are brought by land carriage from Montrose. A barrel of English coals, which contains  $163\frac{1}{4}$  lbs., costs, on an average, about 1s. 2d., besides 4d. for carriage to the lower parts of the town, and 5d. to the upper parts. A small quantity of wood is used, and a few peats, but both these articles are dearer than coals. It has been calculated that the quantity of coals consumed, annually, in the town and suburbs, amounts to about 6600 tons, the carriage of which, at 4s. 6d.  $\forall$  ton, comes to £1485, and the original cost price, at about 13s.  $\forall$  ton, to £4290 sterling, making the expense of this fuel to the town, annually, to be £5775, or, perhaps, near £6000 sterling. The town is well supplied with butcher meat, which, for some years past has been sold generally at 6d.  $\forall$  lb. imperial, for prime pieces. Fish are also plentiful, brought in carts from the coast, and varying in price with the change of weather and abundance of supply, but, generally, only about a fourth dearer than at the sea-side. Butter, cheese, and eggs are abundantly supplied by the neighbouring country district; the first selling from 7d. to 10d. per imperial lb.; the second from 4d. to 6d., according to quality, and the last at from 4d. to 12d.  $\forall$  dozen, according to the season of the year. The professional gentlemen in the town are 8 clergymen, one physician and five surgeons, or six doctors, as they are generally termed, and eight writers, total twenty-two, besides the different schoolmasters. In 1790, there were one physician, two surgeons, and three writers in Brechin.

The Dundee Union Bank has an agency in the Upper West Wynd, under the management of Messrs.

David Guthrie and Sons; and the British Linen Company has an establishment in Clerk Street, under the direction of Messrs. Speid and Black, as agents.

The chief manufacture in Brechin is the different branches of the linen trade. The fabrics made in Brechin, at present, are of considerable variety, but may be all ranked under the head of coarse linens. These, again, may be divided into two classes, the one for the home and the other for the foreign market. The linens made for the foreign market generally range from a reed of 24 to 32 porter; but, in some cases, higher numbers are used, such as reeds of 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 porter of 25 inches. These linens are made from flax yarns of from 2½ to 3 lb ℥ spindle before being bleached, and are called Spanish goods; but these are neither so regularly in demand nor so easily made here as the kinds sent to the New York and West India markets. For these markets 24, 26 and 28 porter dowlas are made from flax warps of 3 lb ℥ spindle, wefted with tow of from 3½ to 6 lb ℥ spindle; also 28, 30 and 32 porter dowlas of 25 to 27 inches in breadth, from 3 lb flax yarns, warp and weft. Previous to being woven, the yarns are all bleached, in which process they undergo a waste of from 20 to 25 ℥ cent. The same sizes of yarns, also bleached, are made into sheetings of 35, 38 and 40 inches in width, for the same markets. There have, likewise, of late years, been a good many Osnaburghs and Diapers made here for the New York market, but they are not to be considered as regular staple manufacture. Those fabrics made for the New York market are considered light labour, and are, therefore,

much sought after by the weavers. The goods manufactured in Brechin for the home market, are chiefly dowlas and sheetings, made from flax yarns varying in size according to the fineness of the cloth. Those most commonly made are 34 to 36 porter dowlas, of from 27 to 30 inches, and sheetings of same reed, varying in breadth from 36 to 42 inches, all made from flax yarn, both warp and weft, the size of which is 8 lb  $\nabla$  spindle before being bleached. Of late, there has been a gradual inclination to finer fabrics than the above, and now 38, 40 and 45 porters of from 30 to 40 inches, form a part of the regular manufacture. They are made of smaller sized yarns of a finer texture, all bleached before being wrought. Considerable quantities of goods, similar to those used in our own country, have been sent to France in the course of these last two years. A few webs are occasionally made by some of our manufacturers from brown or self-coloured yarns, which undergo a simple process of steeping, plashing or knocking, wringing and drying. The greater part of such webs are considered to be for the home market, and are chiefly made from flax yarns. It may be proper to say, for the sake of the general reader, that the reed is that part of the apparatus used in weaving which more immediately divides the warp and drives up the weft. Reeds in this part of the country are made on a scale of 37 inches, varying in thickness according to the fineness or coarseness of the fabrics to be made; for instance, a 30 porter, or 600 reed is divided into 600 openings in the breadth of 37 inches; 20 of these openings are called a porter; into each opening there are put two threads, making 1200 threads of warp and as many

of weft in a square yard of linen, through a 30 porter reed. There are also two canvass manufactories in Brechin, where from 60 to 80 bolts  $\nabla$  week are made, of all the different numbers, both bleached and brown. The canvass is chiefly, if not wholly, of the kinds exported, and may be described as of the third class of that article.

There is a bleachfield on the Inch of Brechin, conducted on chemical principles, which employs, on an average, during the year, 40 males and 30 females. A spinning-mill on the Inch gives employment, constantly, to about 22 hecklers and overseers, and 40 female spinners. Another spinning-mill at the East Mill, recently much enlarged, will now employ, constantly, about 140 females, from the ages of 15 to 30, and 94 males, chiefly between the ages of 15 and 35. Besides these, there are plash mills and drybeating mills—subsidiary mills for preparing yarn—at which, perhaps, 10 or 12 men find constant employment. The Southesk affords water for all these works.

A mill for sawing wood has recently been erected at the Witch Den, wrought by *two wheels*, the one above the other, both driven at the same rate of speed by the water of the Den burn, and both communicating one motion by one main shaft to the saws. There is a flour, meal, and malt mill in the town, called *Muckle Mill*, driven by the Southesk, at which a good deal of wheat is ground for the distant markets.

Formerly, the neighbourhood of Brechin was much infested with bands of smugglers, carrying whisky from the Grampian Highlands to the low country; and Brechin, itself, depended on these *merchants* for its supply of *mountain dew*. Now the matter is re-

versed. There is one extensive distillery in the town, called the North Port Distillery, which consumes about 4000 quarters of barley, annually, sending out from 60,000 to 70,000 gallons of whisky, and employing, constantly, 23 men, besides gentlemen of the excise, *not* employed by the distillery company. There is another neat distillery, called the Glencadam Distillery, in the immediate vicinity. These distilleries supply a far purer spirit than was formerly drunk, under the name of smuggled whisky. There are also two breweries in the town, a small one near the Witch Den, and a large, long-established concern, at the North Port, famed for producing an excellent beer, styled *Baxter's Best*. Whisky, however, is the chief potation of all classes, raw, in grog, or in *punch*. The number of licensed retailers of spirits in the town is 47.

Messrs. Dickson and Turnbull of Perth, have long had a nursery in the lower part of the town of Brechin. Mr. Charles Young has a similar establishment on the west side of the city; and on the east-side, Messrs. Henderson and Sons occupy the Den, besides a large field of their own, and some other ground in the neighbourhood, for a nursery. Altogether, upwards of twenty-five imperial acres are occupied as nursery grounds, affording healthy employment to a number of men and women. These nurseries raise forest and fruit trees of all kinds, ornamental shrubs and bushes, seeds, &c.; and Messrs Henderson devote a pretty large capital to the propagating of flowers, especially Dahlias.

A regular market is held in Brechin every Tuesday, at which very considerable quantities of grain

are bought and sold. The grain merchants meet the farmers in town ; a bargain is made by sample ; the grain is delivered at some of the neighbouring sea-ports during the week ; a printed receipt is then granted for the quantity delivered, and on the following Tuesday the farmer presents his receipt to the merchant and receives his cash. It is astonishing, out of the great number of bargains thus made, how few disputes arise, and the fact is equally creditable to farmer and merchant. During the Autumn and Winter months, there are also weekly markets, each Tuesday, for cattle, and during the months of February and March, commencing on the last Tuesday of February, and ending on the last Tuesday of March, markets for the sale of horses are held. The first Tuesday after Whitsunday, old style, is a great market day, chiefly for the hiring of country servants ; and so is the first Tuesday after Martinmas, old style. If any of these term-days happens on a Tuesday, then the market is held that day. On a piece of ground of nearly 33 acres in extent, belonging to the burgh, and about a mile north of it, called Trinity, or more generally *Tarnty* Muir, a great fair is annually held for three days, commencing on the second Wednesday of June, to which cattle-dealers and horse-dealers resort from all parts of Scotland and some parts of England. Wednesday is the sheep-market day, most of the business being done in the morning ; Thursday, all day, is given to the sale of *Norwt* (cows and oxen) ; and horses are exposed for sale on the Friday. There are other markets held on this ground in April, August and September, but the June market is *par excellence*, termed "the Trinity Fair."



The April market, called the Spring Tryst, generally a large market, is held on the third Wednesday of that month. The August market takes place on the second Thursday, and is called Lammas Muir. The last market, held in September, and which takes place on the last Tuesday of the month, is styled the Autumn Trinity Tryst, and sometimes the "Convener's Market," in commemoration of Mr. David Mitchell, repeatedly convener of the trades of Brechin, who took an active interest in the establishment of this market.

The town is governed by a provost, two bailies, dean of guild, with nine other councillors, chosen by the municipal electors, whose actual voting number is understood, at present, to be 198. The property of the burgh, at October 1838, was valued at £20,343, 16. 6d., the debts at £7,400, leaving a surplus of £12,943, 16s. 6d. There is not a local tax in the city, the expense of lighting, water, watching, cleaning, maintaining streets, &c., being all defrayed from the burgh funds, and the stipends of the established clergymen being paid from the teinds of the parish. The entry money, for a stranger, to the corporation of Brechin, including all dues, is only £3, 6s. ; the sons and sons-in-law of freemen, pay no more than 19s. 6d. A guildry incorporation exists within the burgh, ruled by the "dean of the guildry," the fees of admission to which incorporation are, for strangers £10, 15s. 8d., for freemen's sons 19s., and for freemen's sons-in-law £1, 12s. 4d., while *free* apprentices are also entitled to be entered at a reduced rate, although few or none avail themselves of the privilege intended for free apprentices. The hammermen, bakers, shoemakers, weavers, and

tailors, are also existing incorporations, charging from £8, to £10, for the admission of stranger members, and nominal fees for the admission of the sons and sons-in-law of freemen. All these incorporations contribute to the support of widows, orphans, and decayed members.

The magistrates hold a burgh or bailie court each Wednesday, except during short recesses in Spring, Autumn and Winter. The dean of guild holds courts as occasion requires. The town-clerk is clerk and assessor of both courts, and the procurator-fiscal the public prosecutor in both. A justice of peace court is held the first Wednesday of each month, and the sheriff holds a court, for the disposal of cases under the small debt act, on the third Tuesday of each alternate month. The police of the burgh is maintained by three town-officers and three scavengers, in constant pay, all of whom act as constables. A set of gentlemen, about 40 in number, are also annually sworn in to act as special constables. The livery worn by the town-officers consists of a scarlet coat trimmed with lace, scarlet vest, dark corduroy or plush breeches, white stockings, and black gaiters; rather a shewy livery. Notwithstanding of this display of police force, the town is much infested with vagrants; and, on a very late occasion, one of the town officers, on a Saturday night, found 16 men, 6 women, and 5 children, in the different low lodging houses of the town, not one of the 27 having any actual *honest* means of living except by begging, and all of them being strangers in Brechin. We believe scarce any Saturday evening will shew a smaller number of these worthies, located in Brechin with the view of spending the Sunday.

The town is supplied with water from the high grounds of Cookston, collected there in two reservoirs, having small houses built above them, and in a third large reservoir under ground. The water is conveyed through the town by means of lead pipes, and the fountain-heads stand so high, that every house in the burgh, with the exception of a very few in the Timber Market, might command the water in the attics. It has been several times proposed to farm off pipes to private houses, and such a plan is in immediate prospect, but, meantime, the supplies of water required by the inhabitants are derived, gratuitously, from public wells, generally introduced into the walls of houses at the corners of streets.

Brechin is the seat of a Presbytery. The pastoral charge of the old parish church is collegiate. The first minister has neither manse nor glebe, but used to possess, for a nominal rent, a commodious house, with large gardens, belonging to exchequer. The stipend of this clergyman consists of nineteen chalders of grain, half barley, half oatmeal, including  $3\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of wheat, besides £10 for communion elements. This charge is at present vacant, the last incumbent, the Reverend James Burns, having died on 2d January 1837, and various circumstances having occurred to prevent the settlement of a successor. The second minister, the Reverend Alexander Leith Ross Foote, has both manse and glebe; the glebe is six acres of good ground, to the west of the town; his stipend is 17 chalders of grain, besides £21 from bishops' rents, and £10 for communion elements. The communion is administered twice a-year, in May and in October, each of the established clergymen presiding alter-

nately. The stipend of each minister, converted into money, averages £300 a-year. A new church, containing 864 sittings, in connexion with the establishment, was opened, in the City Road, in 1836; the minister of which receives about £160 a-year, in full of emoluments. Part of the old parish was set aside, *quoad sacra*, to this church, and this section is designated the East Parish, of which the Reverend Mungo Parker was ordained minister in August 1837. There are no less than four other presbyterian places of worship in the town. There is one, styled the Second Congregation, in Brechin, of the United Associate Secession Church, under the charge of the Reverend David Blackadder, who was settled as their pastor on 4th April 1804. Another, "the First United Associate Congregation," is in City Road, the members of which are under the charge of the Reverend James Boyd, who was ordained their pastor on 26th August 1835. A third presbyterian congregation meet also in City Road, under the ministration of the Reverend James Gray, of the Original Seceders, who has been settled as a clergyman in Brechin since 16th April 1794; and a fourth assemble in a church on the High Street, under the pastoral superintendence of the Reverend James Goodwin, in connexion with the Relief Synod. There is also a Scotch Episcopal Chapel in Maisondieu Lane, called Saint Andrew's Episcopal Chapel, of which the Right Reverend David Moir, now elected bishop of the diocese, is the pastor. Ever since Episcopacy was established in Scotland, there has been an Episcopal congregation in Brechin. The present congregation consists of about 350 members, amongst whom may be ranked most of the

gentlemen's families in the neighbourhood. The dissenting clergymen in Brechin, have stipends varying from £100 to £130 a-year, arising from seat rents and collections. Two or three Roman Catholics belong to the parish, but there is no priest or teacher of that communion nearer than Dundee. The different churches assemble, during Winter, at 11 o'clock forenoon, and 2 o'clock afternoon; and during Summer, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, and a quarter after 2 o'clock in the afternoon, holding the Summer to commence on the first Sunday of March, and Winter on the first Sunday of September.

There are ten day schools in the parish of Brechin, besides an infant school, and four, exclusively, for females, and some others for juveniles, merely. All these schools, except two, are within the parliamentary boundaries. The rector of the grammar-school, Mr. George Alexander, A.M., teaches the languages and higher branches of education, and under an arrangement with the town council, he receives a salary of £52, 10s., annually, having conveyed to them all right he has, for his lifetime, to the præceptory of Maisondieu, the funds of which are estimated as being worth about £1000. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster, Mr. David Prain, is £34, 4s. 4d., besides £10 in lieu of house rent. The burgh teacher has a salary of £35. The parochial teacher and the burgh schoolmaster both teach the same branches of English reading, writing and arithmetic. One of the female teachers has an allowance of £15 *per annum* from the town council. None of the other teachers in the burgh has any salary. The master of the Muirland school, situated near the village of

Little Brechin, about two miles north-west of Brechin, has a free house, school and garden, and a small annual allowance from a fund mortified by Mr. Johnston, minister of Brechin, about 1770. The fees, payable in the public schools, are regulated by a schedule approved of by the patrons, and most of the private schools have adopted the same rates. Under this schedule, the fees payable yearly by a pupil are ; for reading, 10s. ; for writing, 10s. ; reading and writing, 14s. ; arithmetic, with or without reading or writing, 18s. ; book-keeping, 20s. ; French, 12s. ; Latin, 16s. ; Latin and French, 18s. ; Greek, 20s. ; Latin and Greek, 20s. ; Geography, 10s. ; French and Geography, 16s. ; Latin and Geography, 20s. ; Euclid, 20s. ; Euclid and Latin, 20s. Combinations of these branches are charged at equally low fees ; and besides these fees there is no gratuity whatever exigible, the only other sum payable being a trifle of one shilling annually by each scholar, to defray the expense of heating. There are also Sabbath schools in different parts of the town, taught by laymen in connection with the several Presbyterian churches ; and Bishop Moir labours most assiduously during the Sundays of the Spring, Summer and Autumn, in catechising the young folks of his congregation.

In the town there is a parish library, consisting of about 600 volumes of a useful and religious kind ; a similar library belonging to the Second United Associate congregation, and a library of pretty much the same description, belonging to Saint Andrew's Episcopal chapel ; also a library belonging to the Mechanics' Institution ; besides all which, each of the two booksellers has a circulating library. There is likewise

a public news-room, supported by private subscriptions.

A bible society has been long in active operation in the town, and societies in aid of those for propagating christianity in India, and for missions, schools and tracts, have existed for many years. The several congregations in town have likewise annual contributions for aiding in the propagation of christianity at home and abroad.

A dispensary for administering medicines and medical advice, gratis, to the poor, was established in 1824, ; and, in 1810, a ladies' society for the relief of aged and indigent women, was also established. These ladies distribute one shilling monthly to about 60 poor females.

About 70 paupers receive regular weekly aid from the session funds. These pensioners consist of widows with children, receiving from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d., and single individuals, receiving 1s. weekly on an average, according to their necessities. Occasional aid is given to about 130 other paupers during the year. The funds for the relief of these paupers arise from the collections at the parish church ; from the rents of some gardens belonging to the session ; from the interest of several small sums mortified to the poor ; from certain feu-duties belonging to the session ; from the rents of 200 sittings in the church, gifted by the heritors to the session ; from fines and mortcloth dues, and from voluntary contributions by the heritors. An assessment, however, seems impending.

The cathedral is supposed to have been originally erected by David I. in the eleventh century, and to have been then dedicated to the Holy Trinity, but

there is no distinct account of the date of the erection of the cathedral or adjoining steeple and tower ; the only document we have seen bearing on the subject being that already mentioned, (p. 17.) by which it is proved that between 1354 and 1384 the belfrey of Brechin was built. In the dike at present surrounding the church-yard, and immediately above the western iron gate, there is a stone said to have been in the wall above the porch door, which was in the centre of the north aisle of the old cathedral, and this stone bears a crozier proper above a shield carrying three bear's heads in the first and fourth compartments, and a lion rampant in the second and third compartments. These, most likely, are the arms of the bishop who built the porch door ; for, it is well known, cathedral churches were never all built at once, but at different times, as the different bishops had taste for building or means at their disposal ; but we have not been able to discover to what family these armorial bearings belong. The cathedral, as used by the Presbyterian congregation, was a handsome Gothic building, consisting, till 1806, of a nave with two aisles, and a transept formed by the extension of these aisles. So far as we can learn, the cathedral was never finally completed. The great western door, at which extremity, generally, cathedrals were commenced, seems to have been fully finished, and the nave appears to have been also completed, but there is no appearance that there were ever any pillars or arches in the transepts, which, as already said, seem to have been merely extensions of the side aisles. Notwithstanding of the beautiful ruins of the choir and chancel, we question



if the high altar had ever been properly finished, and if there had been any thing more than a "Lady Chapel," of which the foundations are occasionally met with to the east of the ruins alluded to. In 1806, the north and south transepts were removed, new aisles were built on each side of the nave, and one roof made to cover the whole, thus totally eclipsing the beautiful windows in the nave, and covering up the handsome carved cornice of the nail head quatrefoil description, which ran under the eaves of the nave. This building, as modernized, is used for the parish church. It is supported by 12 pillars, measures 114 feet in length, 30 feet in breadth, or 58 feet including the aisles, each of which measures 14 feet. The western door has been beautifully carved, and the large Gothic window above it is still much admired for the elegance of its mullions and tracery. Part of the side walls of the choir and chancel, measuring 23 feet in length and 24 feet in height, are still standing, the windows of which are tall and narrow, graced with chaste small columns supporting beautiful lancet-shaped arches. At the north angle of the nave, and close on the west door, is the steeple, a noble-looking square tower, 70 feet high, having handsome belfrey windows, adorned with that species of opening, called the quatrefoil. The top of the steeple is battlemented and surrounded with a bartizan, out of which rises an elegant octagon spire 58 feet high. From the bartizan there is a beautiful view of the surrounding country, bounded on the west and north by the Grampian Mountains, on the south by Burkle Hill, and on the east, extending as far as the eye can see, into the German Ocean, over Montrose. Notwith-

standing the age of these buildings, not a decayed stone can be seen in the cathedral, steeple, or spire. The base of the steeple, which is now occupied as the session-house, has a handsome groined roof, terminating in an open circle of about four feet in diameter, 17 feet from the floor. In the east wall of the tower, and about the middle of the second floor above the session-house, is a square opening like a door, but with *teeth* or stones projecting from each side, so as to be easily filled up to accord with the original building. This door leads by a zig-zag course through the centre of the wall into the roof of the church, the exit from the door being on a level with the side walls of the nave. For what purpose this opening had been left, can only now be matter of conjecture. Possibly it might have been intended for a person, stationed in it, to communicate with the bell-ringers how to toll the bells at different parts of the ceremonies of the Romish Church. At present no person can see from it into the body of the church, in consequence of the flat plastered roof of the church; but when the original Gothic roof of the church existed, similar to that of the Parliament House of Edinburgh, or Westminster Hall of London, there was no difficulty in seeing, from this point, what occurred in the cathedral. In the spire of the steeple are now placed two bells which were formerly in the round tower, and in the steeple, itself, is hung a large bell. A clock, placed on the bartizan when the church was repaired in 1806, strikes the quarters on the small bells, and the full hour on the large bell. Of course, these bells are all used for giving notice of divine service on Sundays, and the large bell is rung, each evening, during the

week, at 8 o'clock, and *tolled* or *jomed*, that is, made to strike solemnly on one side, consecutively, each Saturday night at 10 o'clock ; and it is rung each morning, during the Summer, at 6 o'clock, and during Winter at 7 o'clock. It is a deep full-toned bell, and the tolling, or ringing on one side, on the Saturday nights, has a peculiarly solemn effect. A musical friend informs us that the first or great bell sounds A exactly, concert pitch ; the second, or one of the smaller bells, A sharp, or B flat, an octave above, and the third or smaller bell, C in alt. : and that, had the second bell been A, exactly, the chime would have been perfect,—A, A 8va. and C the 15th. Although not a complete chime, he tells us the Brechin bells may be stated as very nearly so. The same friend informs us that the Relief church bell sounds E in alt., and the town-house bell a note or two lower, say, perhaps, C in alt.

At the south-west angle, but entirely separated from the nave of the church, stands the celebrated round tower, one of those singular buildings which have so long baffled the researches of antiquaries. The tower of Brechin is quite a distinct erection from any of the buildings of the church, although the south aisle now embraces nearly one-fourth of its circumference. From this aisle there is an entrance of comparatively modern date, at least evidently struck out of the wall after the tower had been built, supposed to have been made for the convenience of the ringers when there were bells in the tower. However, when the church was last repaired, these bells, as already noticed, were transferred to the steeple. There is no stair in the tower, and the only access to the top is by

means of six ladders. One ladder rests on the earthen floor within the tower ; and the other five ladders are placed on wooden semicircular floors, each floor being supported by a circular projection or abutment, or corbal, as architects term it, within the tower. These corbals form part of the wall of the tower, and, of course, are parts of the original structure of the tower. Each of the third and fourth floors is lighted by a small window or opening ; the fifth and sixth, by the windows in the top ; and the first, by the door ; but the second has no window or light. The window in the third floor is on the east side ; the window in the fourth floor on the south side. The height of the tower from the ground to the roof is 85 feet ; the inner diameter at the bottom, 8 feet ; the thickness of the wall, at that part, about 4 feet ; so that the whole diameter is nearly 16 feet, and the external circumference very near 50 feet ; the inner diameter, at top, is 6 feet 7 inches, the thickness of the walls 2 feet 10 inches, the circumference 38 feet 6 inches. These proportions give the building an inexpressible elegance. The top is roofed with an *octagonal* spire, 18 feet high, which makes the whole height of the building 103 feet. Near the top of the tower there are four windows, facing the four cardinal points, of oblong shape, with flat plain stones for sills, rybats and lintels. In the octagonal roof there are also four windows, having their sills on the top of the tower, alternating with the windows in the tower. The windows in the roof are brought to a point at the top, by means of two stones resting on each other, like an inverted  $\Delta$ , and springing from the square sides of each window. Near the bottom, on the west side, there is a handsome

small arch or door-way, composed of four large stones, employed, one as a door sill, two as rybats, and one as a curved lintel. The width of the door is only 1 foot 9 inches, the height of the rybats to the arch, 5 feet 9½ inches, and the height of the arch 10 inches, making the total height 6 feet 7½ inches. Each stone is the depth of the wall, and presents an external face of about 13 inches. The sides of the door and the arch stand out in relief from the tower, and on the top of the arch is a crucifixion, also in relief. Between the mouldings on the sides, and about half the height of the sides below the arch, are two figures, apparently monks, leaning on staves, and wrapped in close cloaks with hoods. The introduction of two monks into the crucifixion is an anachronism similar to what may be found in the paintings of some of the first masters. On each corner of the sill of the door, which also stands out in relief from the tower, is the figure of a beast, and in the middle between them is a lozenge, on which apparently some arms have been engraved. Probably these animals may have represented the supporters of the shield of the pious lady whose arms had been contained in the lozenge, and who may have been at the expense of making the door-way. But, except the crucifixion, the whole figures, which have been all sculptured in *alto rilievo*, are so much decayed as to leave considerable scope for imagination. The door-way is filled up in a slovenly manner with coarse rubble work. One side of the door, within the tower, presents the appearance of a staple having been made to go into a hasp, neatly formed in the stone-work, while the other side of the door shews where banda had been

fastened for hanging the door, which thus must have opened upon the interior side of the door-way. The figures, on the exterior of this door-way, bespeak it to be of christian architecture; and after repeated and minute examination, in presence of architects and master masons, we are satisfied that the door-way must have been built when the tower was erected, be that era when it may. The whole tower is built of large stones, not one of which is yet blasted, cut to the circle, but not squared at top or bottom, nor laid in regular courses, but running round the building in sloping courses, which rise above each other like a screw, forming one spiral course from top to bottom; although Mr. Grose asserts, we think without sufficient examination, that it is composed of 60 regular courses of mason work. This mode of building seems ruder and more ancient than the regular coursed ashler work of the steeple; and the roof of the tower, corresponding in the style of building to the steeple, would lead to the belief that this tower, like most others of the same description, had been originally open at top, and had received its present roof at the time the steeple was built, or by architects who imitated that style of building. The handsome door-way, however, rather contradicts the supposition of the want of skill in the original architects. Certain it is, that during high winds this tower has often been observed to vibrate; and we, ourselves, can vouch for having been witnesses to this fact on different occasions. It is by a high wind from the south-east that the tower is most generally shaken. While it stands perpendicular on the east, it appears to be about 3 feet off the plumb on the west side, likely an original

error in the architecture, as no *it* in the building can be detected, and apparently arising from a difference in the thickness of the walls on the east and west side. We intended to have given the internal dimensions more particularly, but, in consequence of two of the ladders of the tower being altogether gone, and the others being in a rotten and decayed state, and the impossibility of introducing any additional ladder through the very small entry now left from the church to the tower, we found it unsafe, if not impracticable, to ascend to the top ; and we are, therefore, obliged to rely on measurements, not so particular as we could now have wished, made some years ago when the ladders and floors of the Brechin tower were in a better state than they are at present.

Towers of this description are said to occur frequently in Ireland. Mr. Richard Gough, in his " Observations on the round towers of Ireland," published in 1779, tells us that " these round towers are spread through divers parts of Ireland ; they differ from each other in degrees of height, some 37 feet, others 50 and more ; that of Kildare is 132 feet high ; and that at Kilkenny is little less. Their outward circuit at the base rarely exceeds 42 feet ; walls 3 feet thick ; diameter within, seldom more than 8 feet ; they gradually diminish from the bottom to the top, which is covered with a stone roof. Withinside are abutments on which to rest the timbers for the several floors or stages, to which they ascended by ladders ; every story had a little window ; the four upper windows looking different ways ; the door for entrance from 8 to 12, and to 15 feet from the ground, without steps or stairs."

In Scotland there are but two such towers, one at Brechin, and another at Abernethy, in Perthshire. We made a pilgrimage to the Abernethy tower. Thomas Simpson, the beadle of Abernethy, informed us, readily, that it was built by the Picts 1300 years ago, and that a gentleman had read the whole account of it out of a book to his daughter. Thomas was, otherwise, very communicative and obliging, and under his superintendence we made a survey of this tower. We found that the height was about 80 feet. The door-way, which is on the *north* side, and attained by three steps, evidently of modern architecture, is about 7 feet in height, and 3 in width. The diameter of the tower, inside, level with the door sill, is 7 feet 10 inches. The thickness of the wall, at the door-way, is 3 feet 6 inches, but as the rybat of the door projects 2 inches, the true thickness of the wall here, is 3 feet 4 inches; consequently the external diameter of the building is 14 feet 6 inches; but as this door-way, from the fall of the ground, is 6 feet 9 inches above the foundation on the west side, the external diameter at the base, will, most likely, be about 15 feet. From the base on the west side, to the top of the door-way, a height of about 14 feet, there are twelve courses of a dark coloured stone, not unlike the Brechin stone. Above this the courses are of a yellow stone like the Cullalo stone, and the sills, rybats and arch of the door-way are of this yellow stone. The door-way is of very rude architecture, composed externally of 6 stones, one used for the door sill, 4 for the side rybats, and one cut into a curve or arch for the lintel. The sill and rybats go through the wall; the lintel is *backed* by some small stones built in arch-ways. The top of the



tower is attained by means of four ladders, resting upon wooden floors supported by internal rings or corbals, exactly similar to those of the Brechin tower. The first of these floors is level with the door sill, and below this floor, there is a vacuity of 3 or 4 feet. By the help of the four ladders, the aspiring antiquarian may reach the floor where the bell is hung, but those who wish to attain the *leads* of the tower must apply to Thomas Simpson to keep the bell stationary, and then, by mounting upon the top of it, they will gain the highest floor, which is about 3 feet from the extreme top. This floor is covered with lead, in which there is a small hatchway, and the individual whose curiosity may induce him to mount so high, will be gratified by a beautiful view of the Tay and Earn, the Castle Law Hill above Abernethy, and the undulating grounds of Fife and Perthshires in the distance. Measured at this height, the internal diameter of the tower is found to be 6 feet  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and the walls 2 feet 7 inches thick; but as the top is covered with stones which project with a moulding of about 7 inches beyond the wall, the real thickness of the wall, at the top, is two feet, and, consequently, the external diameter nearly 10 feet 9 inches. The projecting moulding, we were informed, was added about the middle of last century. Previous to this addition, the tower must have had a very unfinished-like appearance. The internal stone circles, or corbals, are six in number, supporting as many floors; and these projections all evidently form part of the original building of the tower. There is no stone roof, and so far this tower is defective in beauty compared with that of Brechin. Thomas Simpson says, the Picts

built it all in a night, and were about to put on the roof of a morning, when an old woman, looking from her window, frightened them away, and hence the building was left unfinished. At the top, and immediately below the highest internal ring or corbal which supports the leads of the building, there are four windows, but these do not look to the cardinal points, and we should suppose they are some three or or four degrees of variation off the cardinal points. Each window measures, inside, about 6 feet in height and 2 feet in width. They are all arched, and, externally, there is a higher circle some foot or so above that which gives light, and small carved pilasters, of which one or two yet remain, have supported or ornamented the external arch. In this respect they differ from the windows in the Brechin tower. The tower of Abernethy differs also from the Brechin tower in being composed of regularly squared and coursed ashler of moderate sizes. Internally, there is the distinct appearance of the tower having been built to a circular mould or frame, the cement projecting beyond the stones, being run together to the circle, and smoothed on, not squared to, the joints of the stones. The cement upon the inner side of the circle has much the appearance of Roman cement; at the windows the lime appears in the centre of the wall, as if poured into the walls in a liquid state. Externally, the stones of the tower are pretty entire, except on the north-west side, near the top, and the joints having been pointed up within these last three years, the courses of the building are very distinct. In the interior many of the stones are very much decayed and eaten into, like water-worn stones, the softer parts being removed, and the harder

standing out similar to ribs or joints. The tower is one-half within, and one-half without, the church-yard, the dyke of which embraces the north-east half of the tower. Upon the south side of the tower, without the dyke of the church-yard, and opposite to the *Cross* House in which the councillors make their elections and hold their magisterial feasts, and affixed to the wall of the tower, is to be found that ancient instrument of punishment, the Jugs, an iron collar, namely, of three pieces, attached together by two joints, and which, opening in front to receive the culprit's neck, was then secured by a padlock, while, behind, it was fastened by a chain to the building, and thus, the offender remained in durance till it pleased the men in power, and the keeper of the key of the padlock, to relieve him. Our friend, Thomas Simpson, assured us that the magistrates *dared* not now use this instrument of punishment, and as Thomas is town-officer as well as beadle and sexton, and as the day of our visit was the day of the election of magistrates and head court of the burgh of Abernethy, we deem ourselves as having derived our information from the highest, most direct, and purest source!!

Above Abernethy, a little to the south-west, is a hill, called the Castle-Law Hill, upon the top of which are the remains of a vitrified fort, which we visited; and amongst the names of places in the neighbourhood, we find Pittenbreigh, Pittendrioch, &c., and below the hill, on the south side, we saw, if we mistake not, the remains of a Druid temple. Similar names of places, and similar druidical remains are to be found in the immediate vicinity of Brechin. The hill of Finhaven, on which are the remains of a vitrified

fort, is at the distance of some 5 or 6 miles south-west of Brechin, and Catterthun is some 4 miles north-west of Brechin. We leave it, therefore, to abler antiquarians to ascertain if there is any connexion between these circumstances and the round towers of Brechin and Abernethy.

The Reverend Dr. Small of Edenshead, Abernethy, who has written a book "on Roman Antiquities," states the tradition, regarding the tower of Abernethy, to be, that it was erected as a burying place for "the Kings of the Picts," and to the doctor "it is as clear as a sunbeam, that the Pictish race of Kings lie ALL buried within it." In confirmation of this hypothesis, the Reverend Doctor writes, that on 10th May 1821, the interior of the tower was dug into, when, at about four feet from the surface, the sexton found, in presence of the gentlemen assembled, "plenty of human bones, and the fragments of a light green urn, with a row of carving round the bottom of the neck," and that, digging still farther, they "came to three broad flags, which either served as the bottom of the first coffin or the cover of another, and by removing one which seemed the largest, found that there were plenty of bones below ; and thus, after gaining our end in ascertaining the original design of building it, as a cemetery for the Royal Family, we desisted," says the doctor. We introduced ourselves to Dr. Small, from whom we purchased a copy of his work. We are quite satisfied he is a gentleman on whose veracity implicit reliance may be placed ; but we rather fear he jumps at conclusions, and is not a little credulous—and still worse, we doubt his antiquarian skill. Shade of Huddleston, how wouldst

thou shudder, if shades can shudder, to learn that Dr. Small derives Pittendrie, your burial place of the Druids, from two common Scotch words—ascribing the origin of the term to the circumstance of the Romans having “got a more *dreich* piece of road *pitten* to them,” when forming their famous way through North Britain! The doctor, in describing his researches in the tower, adds, that the sexton of Abernethy, afterwards, found “seven other human skulls all lying together, all of them full-grown male skulls,” buried in the tower, one of which, the most entire, was carried away by Sir Walter Scott. Our friend, Thomas Simpson, the successor of the sexton alluded to by the doctor, hints pretty broadly, that situated so close to the kirk-yard as the tower is, there would be no great difficulty in finding skulls in the latter, when it was once seen there was a demand for them. Thomas applies to this case the famous axiom in political economy, that the demand regulates the supply.

Regarding such erections, Mr. Pennant, in his tour through Scotland, has given the following observations:—“The learned among the antiquaries,” he remarks, “are greatly divided concerning the use of these buildings, as well as the founders. Some think them Pictish, probably because there is one at Abernethy, the ancient seat of that nation; and others call them Danish, because it was the custom of the Danes to give an alarm, in time of danger, from high places. But the manner and simplicity of building, in early times, of both those nations, was such as to supersede that notion: besides, there are so many specimens left of their architecture, as tend at once

to disprove any conjecture of that kind: the Hebrides, Caithness and Ross-shire, exhibit reliques of their buildings totally different. They could not be designed as belfreys, as they are placed near the steeples of churches, infinitely more commodious for that end; nor places of alarm, as they are often erected in situations unfit for that purpose. I must, therefore, fall into the opinion of the late worthy Peter Collinson, that they were *inclusoria, et arcti inclusorii ergastula*, the prisons of narrow enclosures; that they were used for the confinement of the penitents; some perhaps constrained, others voluntary, Dunchad o Braoin being said to have retired to such a prison, where he died, A. D. 987. The penitents were placed in the upper story; after undergoing their term of probation, they were suffered to descend to the next; (in all I have seen, there are inner abutments for such floors:) after that, they took a second step, till at length the time of purification being fulfilled, they were released and received again into the bosom of the church. Mr. Collinson says that they were built in the tenth or eleventh century. The religious were, in those early times, the best architects; and religious architecture the best kind. The pious builders either improved themselves in the art by their pilgrimages, or were foreign monks brought over for the purpose. Ireland being the land of sanctity, *Patria sanctorum*, the people of that country might be the original inventors of these towers of mortification. They abound there, and, in all probability, might be brought into Scotland by some of those holy men who dispersed themselves to all parts of christendom to reform mankind." Mr. Gough, the antiquarian, to

whom we have already alluded, offers a pretty similar solution. He tells us, that "about the year 1750, Mr. Charles Smith, author of an account of the counties of Down, Waterford, Kerry and Cork, who, with great industry, was searching ancient records for materials for these works, met with some ancient MSS which clear up this long disputed subject. From these, it appears that these towers were built in the 10th or 11th centuries, and were used for imprisoning penitents." In the church-yard of Drumlahan, county of Cavan, Ireland, there is one of these towers, on the top of which, tradition asserts, an anchorite lived. Mr. Harris, the gentleman, who, in a work on the antiquities of Ireland, reports this tradition, states, that the earliest mention which he found of anchorites in Ireland, was in the year 732. These anchorites were called *Stelites*, from their living on pillars; and Mr. Harris adds, he was informed by a skilful critic in the Irish language, that a tower of the description in question is called, in that language, *clock ancoire*, or the stone of the anchorite, and not *cloghad*, or the steeple. The Styletic system began in the east in the year 460, and some anchorites are mentioned as late as the year 1200. Evagrius, an author who writes on this subject, describes the mansion of the founder of the sect as *on* a pillar 40 cubits or 60 feet high, but he also describes that of Simeon and that of Daniel as *in* a pillar.

Notwithstanding of all this, the theory of Dr. Small, though fanciful in many respects, is not unworthy of notice. The towers in question may have originally been intended for mausoleums, and the fact of only two being found in Scotland, one at Abernethy and

another at Brechin, both of which places are reputed to have been seats of the Pictish Kings, supports the notion that the towers were connected with that peculiar people, and might have been designed as mausoleums for their princes. The fact also that the door-way in the tower of Brechin is 5 feet 10 inches from the ground, and of Abernethy, about 7 feet from the foundation of the building, gives room for supposing that the space between the ground and the doors may have been set aside for containing dead bodies. At Abernethy, there is an inner abutment, level with the door sill, for supporting a floor, below which the bodies might have been deposited; at Brechin, there is a similar projection or abutment, about nine inches below the door sill. We own we should like to see the interior of the Brechin tower dug into, although, even if as many skulls were found as the sexton of Abernethy produced to Dr. Small, we would not thence conclude that the building had been erected expressly for a mausoleum, or that it was the vault of the Pictish Kings, but we might then hazard a conjecture that some of the race had been interred at Brechin. The round tower of Brechin is much more perfect than the tower of Abernethy, and the materials are decidedly better; but the style of architecture at Abernethy, by squaring the stones and laying them in regular courses, is superior to the style of building at Brechin, where none of the stones are squared, and no regular courses are kept, and where, near the foundation especially, there are a number of broken joints, that is the joining of two stones placed immediately above the joining of other two stones; but then the architecture of the door-way of the round tower of



Brechin is decidedly superior to any part of the building of the tower of Abernethy ; and although we long flattered ourselves that this difficulty was got over by supposing the Brechin door-way to have been introduced into the building at an after period, we are now as much convinced, as strict personal examination and the opinions of eminent practical masons can convince us, that this door-way, and all its carving, must have been put into the building at the time of the original erection. It may be conjectured that the tower was built in a hurry, of which, indeed, there are many proofs in the mason work, and that it was so hurried on to receive a royal corpse ; but that, while the rest of the materials were being prepared in the most expeditious way possible, time, attention, and labour, were bestowed on the comparatively small matter of the door-way. Tradition, in Brechin, as well as at Abernethy, ascribes the erection to the *Peghts* ; and, although tradition has not reported at Brechin that they were interrupted by any old woman, it has stated that they were only allowed a trifle for their work, and were cheated out of part of this trifle ; and, possibly, both traditions may import that the buildings were erected in comparatively short time. The existence of similar buildings in Ireland would not controvert the theory that they were originally intended as the burying-places of princes, for, in Ireland, where there were, till a comparatively late period, so many independent kings, there may have been as many distinct burying-places. To be sure, the lozenge on the door-way of the tower of Brechin, throws a doubt upon the theory, that these buildings were erected as the burying-places of the Pictish Kings, for it may be

questioned if the Picts or *Peghts* used armorial bearings, or if the Pictish ladies carried their quarterings on a lozenge; but, then, there is another question, whether this lozenge may not have been cut into its present shape from something else, at a recent period; and there is yet the more primary question, whether, what we have described as a lozenge, is a lozenge after all, although we are pretty well convinced it is really a lozenge or diamond.

We own Dr. Small's speculation does not coincide with our opinions, and we are inclined to fall into Mr. Collinson's theory, approved of by Mr. Pennant and Mr. Gough, that the round towers in question were built by the *religieuse* of the tenth century, as places of mortification, and perhaps of sepulture, and we think the fact of the emblems of christianity being found cut on stones, which are evidently part of the original structure of the Brechin tower, goes far to prove the correctness of this hypothesis.

Our readers will recollect the proof we adduced (pg. 17,) that Henry de Lichton, vicar of Lethnot, gave to Patrick, Bishop of Brechin (1354-84) a horse and cart, driven by Elias Wright, to lead stones to the building of the belfry of the church of Brechin. Now, if the supposition we have made is correct, the stones which were thus driven could not have been driven for the erection of the round tower, which we suppose to have been erected nearly 400 years before. The belfry alluded to in the proceedings with the vicar of Lethnot, may have been the square tower, or steeple, in which the largest bell was hung, and which, since 1806, has been exclusively used as the belfry of the church, but we own we can scarce think the vicar

of Lethnot would have been allowed to get off with so trifling a contribution as a horse and cart, to assist in driving stones for so immense a building ; and, besides, the square tower is universally called the *steeple* in all writings which have come under our notice : The round tower, itself, can scarce be meant, because, towards such an erection, the whole members of the chapter must have contributed more largely than Lichon did in the instance alluded to. The octagon top of the round tower is clearly of a different and superior style of architecture from the rest of the tower, and we cannot help thinking that, as the tower of Abernethy is without a top, the Brechin tower had originally been also without any top, and that the tower of Brechin had received its top for the purpose of being used as a belfry, sometime about the year 1360 ; and that the top, then erected, was built by Patrick, Bishop of Brechin, in the same style as the square tower, bartizan, and steeple, then existing ; for it is a legitimate conclusion, that the cathedral itself was erected when the bishopric was created by David I., and that the large steeple was built at the same time, or about 200 years before the belfry was built on the top of the round tower. Here, however, we are again met with the difficulty of the arms borne on the lozenge, for, as the practice of carrying armorial bearings was little known till the tenth century, and was not brought to perfection till nearly 200 years afterwards, we can scarce imagine that, if this tower was built in the ninth or tenth century, the arms of the founder could appear upon it. Granting that the lozenge is an armorial bearing, then the tower must date some where about the year 1200, and, after

all, the vicar of Lethnot's horse and cart may have assisted at the erection of it. We are almost satisfied that the figure, so often alluded to, is a lozenge, but we are by no means satisfied that it is an armorial lozenge, and rather conceive it to be one of those fancy figures which an architect would use to relieve the appearance of a heavy door sill, and that the lozenge, with the two figures of animals at the corners, was introduced for this purpose. This supposition, however, we hazard with very great diffidence, and we own our theory is not much less free from attack than that of our Pictish friends.

We find ourselves, however, bound to come to some conclusion, and we, therefore, offer it as our humble opinion, that the shaft of the pillar, or round tower of Brechin, was erected somewhere about the year 1000, the cathedral and steeple about 1150, and the belfrey, or top of the round tower, about 1360. But we fear our readers are tired of the tower, and we, therefore, return to the cathedral.

The cathedral is bounded on the south and east by a steep ravine, which is, by some, supposed to have also bounded the site of the church on the north, leaving the only access by the west. This theory is countenanced by the fact, that *travelled* or artificial earth has repeatedly been found, at a great depth, a little to the north of the church within the confines of the supposed ravine, and it is farther supported by the fact, that peat-moss, leaves, and deer's horns were lately found in digging a grave, of some depth, within six yards of the foundation of the steeple, while no appearance of original soil was to be seen.

To the east of the church is a lane, leading to the

High-Street, termed the Bishop's Closs. Over the mouth of this closs, next the High-Street, is a pend or arch, the sides of which display part of the ancient walls which enclosed the Bishop's Palace, and part of the abutments, from which sprung the original arch over this entry, which, as we believe, was erected by Bishop Carnock between 1429 and 1450. On the north side of this lane stood the Bishop's Palace, but no vestige of it now remains, the foundation having been dug out when the house, lately occupied by Mr. Burns, was erected in 1771.

Against the round tower there is now fastened an oblong stone which was dug out of the church-yard some years ago. The stone is covered with figures, and its general aspect very much resembles the outer case of an Egyptian Mummy. There are two stone coffins lying in the church-yard, but it is hard to say if this carved stone had been the cover of any of them. Most probably, these stone coffins, which lie at the east end of the church, had formed receptacles for the bodies of some of the bishops of the see, who had, according to the practice of the popish church, been buried under the high altar ; but this is mere speculation, as we have no history on the subject, only the coffins were found near the place where the high altar must have stood. These stone coffins are now placed alongside a *vault* or enclosed burying-place, belonging to the family of Speid of Ardovie ; a family that has been long connected with this part of the country. On 6th May, 1519, the Archbishop of St. Andrews granted a charter of confirmation and *novodamus* in favour of Thomas Speid, of the lands of Cuikston, lying in the regality of St. Andrews and

barony of Rescobie, on the narrative, that Mr. Speid and his ancestors had possessed these lands beyond the memory of man, without any interruption. On 9th September, 1549, George Speid exchanged the lands of Cuikston for the lands of Auchdovey, now called Ardovie, in the parish of Brechin, by contract of excambion with Robert Carnegie of Kinnaird, and the lands of Ardovie have been in possession of the family of Speid ever since—for eight generations. Immediately opposite the Ardovie vault, and affixed to the ruins of the choir, is a monument, erected in 1806, by Alexander Ferrier, Esq. of Kintrocket, to the memory of his brother, Captain David Ferrier, who made a voyage round the world in the *Dolphin*, and who died in his native parish of Brechin in 1804, at the age of sixty. The *fore* church-yard has a monument to the memory of Mr. Alexander Ferrier, himself, who died in 1809, also aged sixty, and to whom might justly be applied the celebrated line of Horace, inscribed on the monument of Captain Ferrier:—

“*Multa Ille Bona flebilis occidit.*”

A modest stone, a little to the north of the Ardovie vault, records the death of Alexander Mitchell, “who departed this life the 28th March 1800, aged 101 years and two months;” and who, consequently, saw the year 1699, a century more, and the year 1800, and thus, may be said to have lived for parts of three different centuries. We have already mentioned the inscription built into the north-west wall, relating to the visitation of the plague in 1647.

William de Brechin, is said, in 1256, to have founded the chapel, called *Maison de Dieu*, for the repose of the souls of the Kings William and Alexander, and

of his brother John, Earl of Chester and Huntingdon; of Henry his father, and Juliana his mother. Part of the walls of the chapel still remain; they are situated in the Maisondieu Vennel, or Lane, a little west of the Timber Market, and they prove that the chapel had been, originally, an elegant little building. The house, itself, and the property about it, with the superiority of some other lands, and a small revenue, payable from the farms of Maisondieu and Dalgety, in the immediate vicinity, are generally gifted by the crown to the rector of the grammar-school, during his incumbency, who, hence, takes the title of Præceptor of Maisondieu, and in signing charters or other writings relating to his office, puts "Præceptor Domus Dei" after his name. There have been instances, however, of these revenues being granted for other purposes, and the Panmure family seem, at one period, previous to the year 1700, to have been in the receipt of them.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Chapel, also situated in Maisondieu Vennel, altered and enlarged in 1830, presents a neat Gothic front to the west, but from other points the pinnacles of the building look rather paltry, and the shape of the chapel behind—an old house widened—does not improve the appearance. However, it must be admitted that the architect, Mr. James Ross of Huntlyhill, has made the most of the material and means which were at his command.

The same architect furnished the plan for the East Church in the City Road, a building in the form of a cross, with a small spire rising in front, looking towards the west, and here, it must be allowed, the architect has been extremely fortunate in bringing

out a very neat building, at a very small expense ; the church, which is seated for 864 people, with steeple and all, having cost something below £1000.

Within the burgh, at the junction of the Upper West Wynd with the Timber Market, there is a house said to have been a *Hospitium* of the Knights Templars, now appropriately used as the Crown Inn. These knights seem to have had some lands in the neighbourhood, as there is a piece of ground on the estate of Cairnbank, close by Brechin, bearing the title of Templehill of Bothers.

Brechin Castle, the seat of Lord Panmure, stands on the brink of a perpendicular rock, above the Southesk, a little to the south of the town, from which it is separated by a continuation of the ravine behind the cathedral. This castle was besieged by the English under Edward I., in 1303, and was, for 20 days, gallantly defended by Sir Thomas Maule, ancestor of the family of Panmure, who was slain by a stone cast from an engine, placed on the opposite rising ground, upon which the castle was instantly surrendered. Part of the tower where Sir Thomas was killed is still pointed out ; and on the opposite rising ground, from which the fatal stone was thrown, a number of rude coffins, composed of loose stones, were lately found, in one of which was a skull with a nail driven through it, probably part of the missiles thrown from the castle. The south front of the castle, which is above the river, presents a romantic mixed mass of buildings, covered with ivy, and shewing some remains of the original structure. The west front forms a regular building in the tame style of the seventeenth century, with round towers at the flanks.



The interior is handsomely and comfortably furnished and adorned with a number of beautiful paintings, busts, and other works of art.

The Town-House of Brechin is in the middle of the town, near the Cross, or market place. It was built in 1789, and is a respectable edifice, containing a court-room below, with a well proportioned and neatly finished town-hall above. The council-rooms communicate with the town-hall, and are immediately above the prison, a melancholy building, containing a debtor's room, and two cells for criminals, all as well ventilated as a building, so placed in the centre of the most crowded part of the town, can be. The Tolbooth of Brechin has, we believe, always stood where the present Tolbooth stands, and we find the present site indicated about 1537, as the site of the Tolbooth. The inmates of this building, in the course of the year 1837, were 20 criminals and 4 debtors.

Adjoining the Court-House is a property, now belonging to Mr. John Cruden Blair, tenant of Hall-green, which formerly belonged to the Earl of Airlie, and of which that noble earl is still the superior or over-lord. The Airlie family were proprietors of the house in 1633, as appears from some title-deeds of that date. The children of Brechin play a game, where one sets aside for him, or herself, a small space, which is termed the green, and the others trespass more or less upon this space, singing at same time, "I set my foot upon Airlie's green, and Airlie daur na catch me;" and if the occupier of the green succeeds in catching an intruder, this intruder is compelled to become "Airlie." This game is said to have reference to Mr. Blair's property, which was exempted

from the jurisdiction of the magistracy, and solely under that of Lord Airlie, who exercised the powers of constabulary, vested in that noble family, on all who intruded upon his green.

Attached to the Swan Inn, there is a very handsome hall, called the Farmer's Hall, containing a portrait of Lord Panmure at the head of the room, and a portrait of the late Peter Arkley, Esq. of Dunninald, at the foot of the room. These portraits were painted, in 1822 by Mr. Calvin Smith, a native of Brechin, at the request of the Eastern Forfarshire Farming Association, out of respect for Lord Panmure and Mr. Arkley, the active founders of the institution. The hall also contains some excellent paintings of the different breeds of cattle common to Scotland, painted by that talented, but unfortunate artist, Mr. Howe of Edinburgh. The Association was instituted in 1814, with the view of promoting the agricultural interests of the county. It holds two shows during the year, one on the Trinity Muir, in the Spring, and the other on Glasterlaw, between Arbroath and Brechin, in the Autumn, at both which prizes are distributed for the best horses and cattle then exhibited by the members, and for improvements on agricultural implements. The average number of members, who pay £1, 1s. or upwards, yearly, to the society, is 160. The Swan Inn is the principal Inn of the town; but there are several other highly respectable houses, amongst which may be named the Cross Guns in the Timber Market, the Crown Hotel, and Saracen's Head, in Upper West Wynd.

The former school was a neat plain building of three apartments, facing the western entrance to the

town, and surmounted by a belfrey and clock face. Lord Panmure, however, with the noble generosity of a great mind, is now causing be erected on the site of the former schools a handsome building of two stories in the Gothic style, with square-headed mullion windows, and having a front of 80 feet, with a square tower, rising in the centre, to the height of 80 feet. The lower floor is to contain the school-rooms for the different masters, and the second floor is to consist of apartments for the accommodation of the Mechanics' Institution, the lecture-room of which will form a magnificent hall, 55 feet by 30 feet.

The Brechin Mechanics' Institution, instituted in 1835, may be said to be yet in its infancy, but with the prospect of such ample accommodation as that proposed to be provided by Lord Panmure, we have no doubt the library and institution will both prove highly advantageous to the community. This, we know, the inhabitants of Brechin seem, generally, to hold with Shakspeare, that

—— Ignorance is the Curse of God,  
Knowledge the wings wherewith we fly to heaven ;

and we have no doubt they will avail themselves of the facilities for acquiring knowledge, now so amply provided for them.

A Gas-Light Company, also instituted in 1835, has thriven remarkably well, almost every house in the town and tenements being lighted with this fluid. The works are situated in the lower part of the town, at the Witch Den.

A musical society existed in Brechin for the last two years, but is now in abeyance. However, it has served to educate a very respectable musical band,

consisting of 14 instruments, to almost all of which there are duplicate performers. The band is that styled a military band. The instruments belong to a set of gentlemen who acquired them of the musical society, and who lend them to the performers. During the Summer months the members of the band amuse their fellow-townsmen by occasional performances on the streets; and on all public occasions they are ready to turn out, with or without a fee, to promote the public hilarity.

There is a Mason Lodge, a very neat building, situated in the Nether or Lower West Wynd, in which the brethren of the mystic tie occasionally assemble, under the name of St. James's Lodge of Masons. A friendly society, consisting of about 80 members, is connected with the lodge. The entry-money to the society varies from 5s. to £7, 15s., according to the age of the entrant, besides which, the members pay 1s. 6d., quarterly. The benefits given for these payments are, 3s. per week during the first six weeks of bad health, and 2s. per week, thereafter; 1s., weekly, to each member above 65 years of age; 20s. of funeral money, and 3s., quarterly, to widows, or the like sum to the children, where there is no widow, till the youngest attain 12. The Old Wright Society of Brechin, to which the members contribute 1s. quarterly, gives pretty similar allowances, except that in it there is no provision for old age. A Benevolent Society or Lodge of Odd Fellows also exists, which provides for sick members only. A Yearly Society was recently established for the same purpose. Besides these, there is a society of a higher grade, styled the Merchant Society, intended to provide an annuity

of £10 per annum to widows or children. There is, likewise, another masonic body, not formed into a friendly society, "according to act of parliament," and this sect, who rejoice in the name of Saint Mark's Lodge of *superior* master masons, hold their annual festival on 25th April, being Saint Mark's Day. An encampment of Knights Templars has been more than once established, but the camp has never been sufficiently protected, for, hitherto, it has not been able to keep its ground in Brechin. A Royal Arch Lodge, connected with the encampment, has disappeared with it. On the whole, we consider masonry on the wane in Brechin.

A great number of carriers travel daily between Brechin and Montrose, some of whom carry stones from the Brechin quarries, and all of whom bring coals to Brechin, besides the merchant wares imported to Montrose. There are three regular carriers, each driving two, and sometimes three carts weekly, between Brechin and Dundee, and two of these carriers extend their trip twice a-week to Aberdeen. A carrier from Perth to Aberdeen also passes through Brechin weekly. Our Slateford neighbours have their two carters twice a-week to Brechin, and the Highland district of Lochlee sends down a similar conveyance each Monday, which returns north every Tuesday.

The Defiance Coach from Aberdeen to Edinburgh, by Perth, passes through Brechin each lawful day at 10 o'clock forenoon, and returns from Edinburgh about 3 o'clock afternoon. The Royal Union Coach from Aberdeen to Edinburgh is in use to pass southwards at 2 o'clock in the morning, and northwards at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The Sir Henry Parnell

Coach to Dundee, leaves Brechin every Tuesday and Friday at 6 o'clock morning, and returns at 9 o'clock at night. Some alterations, however, are proposed on the Parnell and Union Coaches, which may have the effect of putting them off the road altogether before these sheets go to press. Every Tuesday there are two noddies from Montrose, arriving about 11 o'clock forenoon, and leaving about 4 o'clock afternoon.

The mail is at present carried by a foot-runner, who arrives in Brechin from Montrose every morning, during Summer, at 7 o'clock, and during Winter, at 8 o'clock, and leaves Brechin again every afternoon at 3 o'clock. There is a bye-post to Forfar every day except Sunday, leaving at 2 o'clock morning, and returning at 2 o'clock afternoon. This man also travels on foot, and as he walks to and from Forfar every day except Sunday, and is rarely kept at home by bad weather, he traverses no less than 8112 miles each year as postman. It is expected, however, that the Defiance Coach will be immediately commissioned to carry the mail bags, so that, in addition to these foot-runners, whose hours may probably be altered, there will be arrivals and despatches each day by that fast travelling coach; and the newspapers published in the morning at Edinburgh, will arrive at Brechin by afternoon.

The *arms* of the town of Brechin are the figure of Saint Ninian sitting in a Gothic porch, with his left hand on a crucifix, bearing an image of Christ, and his right hand raised in the attitude of blessing, and, below, a shield with three piles upon it. There is no motto. The seal of the city is the same, with the

addition of a thistle issuing from each side of the shield, and the words in black Saxon characters in a circle round the arms, "Sig : Civitatis de Brechin,"—the seal of the City of Brechin.

The distinguished men of the present day, connected with Brechin, are, *of course*, so numerous, that it would require a volume to do them justice, and, therefore, we make no attempt here, even at a simple enumeration ; but, amongst lawyers, we may be allowed to name Lord Gillies, and Mr. Currie sheriff of Banffshire ; amongst artists, Mr. Colvin Smith, now of Edinburgh ; amongst politicians, the Honourable Fox Maule, under secretary of state, and Mr. Adam Thom of the Canada commission ; amongst churchmen, the Reverend Thomas Guthrie of Grey Friars, Edinburgh ; amongst authors, Dr. John Smith Memes, rector of Ayr academy, and professor Nichol of Glasgow ; amongst musicians, Mr. Robert Lowe of Glasgow ; amongst architects, Mr. John Henderson of Edinburgh ; amongst poets, Mr. Alexander Laing of Brechin ; and, finally, we may be permitted to close our little volume with a tear to the memory of an intimate friend, the late Reverend James Martin of St. George's Church, Edinburgh.

## **A P P E N D I X.**





## LIST OF THE BISHOPS OF THE SEE OF BRECHIN.

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THE EPISCOPAL SEE OF BRECHIN was founded and endowed by King David I. about 1150.—Vide, “An Historical Catalogue of the Scottish Bishops by The Right Reverend ROBERT KEITH,” edition 1824, edited by Dr. Russel of Leith, page 156. See also “History of the Bishops of Brechin,” contained in a manuscript history of the Scottish Bishops, belonging to The Right Honourable LORD PANMURE, page 103. See likewise “The History of the Church of Scotland,” by Archbishop JOHN SPOTSWOOD, edition 1655, page 108, who states, the bishoprick of “Brichen” to have been founded about 1140.

1.—T. is the initial letter of the name of the first bishop, 1155.—KEITH, page 156. We have considerable doubts if there is not some mistake of dates, and whether Keith’s bishop T. of 1155 is not Turpin of 1178; the more especially as Gregory (vide No. 6.) mentions all his other predecessors except this T. However, on the dicta of Keith, and authorities referred to by him, we have placed T. as first bishop of Brechin.

2.—SAMPSON, 1157.—”Tho’ he be not found designed bishop of this see in King David’s time, yet he is bishop here in the time of King Malcolm IV., and by a modest enough computation, he might have been the first bishop preferred to the see, even by

good King David himself. He, Sampson, *Episcopus Brechinensis*, is a witness to the charters of King Malcolm IV. to the priory of St. Andrews before the year 1158." Panmure manuscript, page 103. His name is written *Sansane*, in a charter in the archives of King's College, Aberdeen. Keith, page 560.

3.—TURPIN, 1178.—"When he was invested in the bishoprick, he gave to the monks of St. Thomas of Arbroath, the churches of Old Montrose and Carcaryn, *pro salute animæ suæ*." Panmure MS, page 103. Keith, page 157.

4.—RADULPHUS, 1202.—"He confirmed to the abbey of Coupar the grants of his predecessor Turpin, in which deed, William de Bosco, who was chancellor both to King William and his son, Alexander II., is a witness. He died anno 1218." Keith, page 158. Panmure MS, page 104.

5.—HUGO, 1218.—He is said to have been contemporary with Robert, *elect* of Ross, regarding whose own incumbency there are considerable doubts. Hugo is also said to have been cotemporary with Adam, bishop of Caithness, who died 1222. Keith, page 158, 206. The Panmure MS takes no notice either of this Hugo or of Robert Mar, whom the chronicles of Aberbrothick, according to Keith, state to have been bishop of Brechin in 1219. Hugo, according to Keith's version of the chronicles of Melrose, "*obiit Episcopus Brechinen. anno 1218, cui successit Gregorius archidiaconus ejusdem episcopatus*," and Gregory notices Hugo amongst his predecessors. Hence we infer that Hugo was only short time incumbent, and that Robert had never actually been ordained

bishop ; if, indeed, Keith does not confuse this Robert of 1219 with Robert of 1249, vide No. 8.

6.—GREGORY, 1219.—“ How long he sate, or when he died, I have not been able to discover.” Panmure MS, page 104. “ He makes mention of Turpin, Radulphus and Hugo his predecessors.” Keith, page 158. “ He was bishop some time after the thirty second year of King Alexander II.,” or 1246, Nisbet’s Heraldry, appendix, page 247.

7.—GILBERT, 1247.—“ From the authority of the chronicles of Melrose, died in the 1249.” Panmure MS, page 104. Keith, page 159.

8.—ROBERT, 1249.—Archdeacon of Brechin, succeeded Gilbert, “but died soon after.” Panmure MS, page 104.

9.—ALBIN, 1254.—He “ is one of the judges in a solemn arbitration betwixt the convent of Arbroath and Sir Peter de Maulia, Lord of Panmure, and Christiana de Valonijs, Lady Panmure, his wife, about the lands of Brakis and Bothmernock, lying in the lordship of Panmure, anno 1254. The bishop died in the 1269.” Panmure MS, page 104. “ He would appear to have been bishop here within the reign of King Alexander III. (1249–86) since he is witness to William, Brechin (Barclay ?) of Brechin, his foundation of the ‘ Maison de Dieu ’ in Brechin for the souls of William and Alexander, kings of Scotland.” Keith, page 159. Spotswood says, page 108, “ Urwardus or Edwardus, lived about the year 1260, a monk, at first at Couper in Angus, a man very zealous in his calling ; for it is testified of him that he went on foot through the whole kingdom with one Hustathius, abbot of Aberbrothock, preaching the gospel

wheresoever he came. Albinus, *after him*, was bishop some few years." But, on the margin, Spotswood remarks; "since the writing of this catalogue, I have found four bishops succeeding Edwardus, one after another, Turpinus, Rodolphus, Hugo and Gregorius, but how long they sate bishops I cannot say."

10.—WILLIAM DE KILCONCATH, 1269.—"Whom the chronicle of Melross calls Lator Fratrum Predicatorum de Perth. Bishop Spotswood says he was dean of Brechin, but from what authority I know not. He says also this prelate died going to Rome in the 1275." Panmure MS, page 105. Spotswood, page 108.

11.—EDWARD, 1275.—Spotswood is inclined to place this bishop after Sampson, but Keith introduces him after William de Kilconcath, "merely," he says, "that I may not omit him altogether," page 160. The Panmure MS omits Edward, and Robert to be just noticed, and thus leaves a hiatus of 15 years. We, therefore, think Keith's hypothesis the correct one and adopt Edward as the 11th bishop of Brechin.

12.—ROBERT, 1284.—"Robert, formerly archdeacon of this see was bishop thereof in the year 1284." Keith, page 160.

13.—WILLIAM, 1290.—"Was one of the Scotch clergy who addressed King Edward of England, that the prince, his son, might marry Margaret, the young Queen of Scotland, whereby the two crowns might be unite into one monarchy." Panmure MS, page 105. Keith, page 160.

14.—JOHN DE KINNINMUND, 1304.—"Of an ancient family of that name and designation in the shire of Fife, was bishop here, 22d October 1304. His is

bishop before the year 1309, and in the year 1309 he is one of the bishops, who, solemnly, under their seals, recognize King Robert Bruce's title to the Crown of Scotland. In the year 1311, he appends his seal, together with Nicholas, bishop of Dunblane, to a solemn agreement betwixt the abbots of Cambuskenneth and Coupar. He is bishop here in the year 1313, also the same person is bishop anno 1321, likewise in the 7th and 16th years of Robert I., and anno 1323, and he is witness to King Robert's confirmation of the monastery of Aberbrothock." Keith, page 160. Panmure MS, page 105.

15.—ADAM, 1328.—"Adam is bishop here anno 1329. Adam was bishop here anno 1338. He is witness to King David's confirmation of the monastery of Arbroath, anno reg. 13, item anno reg. 15, i. e. anno domini 1342 and 4. Adam, bishop of Brechin, is witness, together with 'David de Barclay, Malcolme de Ramsay, Vice-comite de Angus, Joanne de Straton, Waltero de Allardes.' Now, this David Barclay seems to have been the last laird of Brechin, who was murdered in the year 1348. Bishop Adam was employed in several embassies into England towards the facilitating of King David's redemption, who had been taken prisoner at the unfortunate battle of Durham, anno 1346. Edward seems to have treated this bishop with more favour than he shewed to the other ambassadors; as a proof of which, we may mention, that he bore his expenses when in England. Rot. Scot., 20: Mar. 16., Ed. III. The same prelate appears to have been an agent in the dark negotiations of the degenerate David II., with Edward III. See particularly Rot. Scotiæ, 26th Jul. 34, Ed. III." Keith, page 161. "He died in, or about,

the year 1350." Panmure MS, page 106. There is some confusion regarding this bishop, which is by no means cleared up by the charter, dated in 1360, referred to by Dr. Russel, (page 561) granted by David II. to Bishop Leuchars.

16.—**PHILIP, 1350.**—He was bishop on 16th March 1350. See cartulary of Brechin, and charter by this bishop to Helisco Panter, of certain subjects on the east side of the Market-gate of Montrose. "Philip is in this see, 1351." Keith, page 162. "Paniter, or as it is commonly pronounced Panter, was the surname of a family who possessed the land of Newmans' Walls, about an half mile or so north of the town of Montrose. In the royal registers, we see the name of Patrick Panter, who was abbot of Cambuskenneth and royal secretary, after he had been first rector of the church of Fetteresso in the Mearns, also præceptor of the hospital of Maisondieu, in the town of Brechin, chancellor of the see of Dunkeld, and tutor and præceptor to Alexander Stuart, natural son of King James IV., who was afterwards archbishop of Saint Andrews. And this Patrick had a natural son, named David, whose legitimation bears date, August 12, 1513. (Reg. Chart. B. 28., p. 667.) This same Patrick Panter, the secretary, has an elder brother of the name of David, and this David the brother, had a son David, who, no doubt, has been our bishop of Ross, for he was the son of Margaret Crichton, who was first countess of Rothes, and afterwards married to a gentleman of the surname Paniter; and our bishop, in a charter, does expressly call Lesly of Findressie in the shire of Moray, his brother. Patrick Panter, the uncle, and our bishop, his nephew, were two persons

admirably versed in the Latin tongue, as well appears by the two volumes of the letters of our kings, &c., to foreign princes, &c., penned by them, and published in the years 1722 and 1724, by Mr. Thomas Ruddiman, keeper of the Advocates' Library, a man, superior, perhaps, to any man in Great Britain, in that same language." Keith, page 193.

17.—PATRICK DE LEUCHARS, 1354.—"Descended of an ancient family in the shire of Fife, had been rector of Tinningham in East Lothian; (*charta penes dominum de Cardross nunc comitem de Buchan*,) was invested in the see of Brechin anno 1354, and some time after was made Lord High Chancellor of the kingdom. He was also much employed in treating about the redemption of King David II., and in adjusting the several payments of his ransom. He was both bishop and chancellor, anno reg. 29, *i. e.* anno domini, 1358, Nov. 12, *it.* Nov. 18, also anno reg. 30. He was bishop and chancellor in the 31 and 34 years of David II. He was chancellor anno 1360, bishop and chancellor, anno 1362. He was bishop, anno 28 and 36, David II., and bishop and chancellor, July 4, anno reg. 39, and bishop, anno 40. In the year 1370 he resigned his office of chancellor, at least it is certain that he had made this resignation some time before the death of King David. He is bishop in the first, second, and third years of King Robert II., anno reg. 3, and he was Bishop and present in parliament, 1373."—Keith, page 162. He must have resigned the office of chancellor previous to the 1369, for in that year there is a charter by David II., to Patrick, bishop of Brechin, granting certain privileges to the city which is witnessed by John de Carrick, canon



of Glasgow, *Chancellor*, Robert the Stewart of Scotland, grandson of the king, and other noblemen. See *Cartulary of Brechin*. "Soon after bishop Leuchars' advancement, he was promoted to be Lord High Chancellor of Scotland, and is so designed in a confirmation to him by K. David of Walterus de Maulia dominus de Panmure, charter of his lands of Cairncorothy and Chaplanary of Boath to the episcopal see of Brechin, 20 Nov. 1360, which office he held for the space of sixteen years, till the 1370 he resigned the great seall, which was, by King David II., given to Dr. John Carrick, chanon of Glasgow, and keeper of the privy seal, and the bishop died soon thereafter, tho' he had the happiness, before his death, to see King Robert II. peaceably settled on the throne; his death happened about the year 1375." Panmure MS, page 106. There is a letter by Bishop Leuchars regarding the dignities of the church of Brechin, dated in 1372. See *Cartulary of Brechin*. "In the 1374, he is then alive, the bishop is witness to a resignation of lands by Sir Malcolm Fleming to the Earl of Douglas." Panmure MS.

18.—STEPHEN, 1375.—"To bishop Leuchars succeeded Stephen, archdean of Brechin, who sate bishop of this see anno 1384, and he discharged the office of his function till his death in 1401." Panmure MS, page 106. At request of Sir David Lindsay of Glenesk, this bishop erected the church of Lethnot into a prebendary, with power to the prebend thereof, to be a canon of the cathedral church of Brechin, and to have a stall in the choir and a place in the chapter. *Cartulary of Brechin*, 23d February 1384.

19.—WALTER FORRESTER, 1401.—"Of the fa-

maly of Cardin in Stirlingshire, was first a canon of the church of Aberdeen ; next was made secretary of state, and then promoted to the see of Brechin, in which he was bishop as early as the year 1401. He was bishop here, anno 1405 and 1408. He was bishop, anno 1413, it. anno 8vo. 'Roberti Gubern.' As also 15 Januarij 1415." Keith, page 163. In 1409, this bishop obtained, from Sir John Erskine of Dun, a grant of certain services payable by the church of Brechin to him, for the lands of Ecclesjohn. Cartulary of Brechin, 9th November 1409. There is a presentation addressed to this bishop by the Earl of Crawford, by which the earl requests the bishop to examine his beloved cousin, Andrew de Ogilvy, clerk of the diocese of Dunkeld, as to his knowledge and morals, and thereafter to admit him to the prebendary of Lethnot, and to a stall in the cathedral church of Brechin, 6th December 1410. On 30th June 1413, bishop Forrester obtained a precept from Robert, Duke of Albany, addressed to the sheriff of Kincardineshire, for the enforcement of certain "wards, reliefs and marriages, fines and escheats," from that county, and this precept is enforced by subsequent similar writings, down to 1417, but the bishop's name does not occur in any of them after 1413. Cartulary of Brechin. Dr. Russel says, page 561, "He occurs, 16th July 1420, in Reg. Eccl. Brechin. f. lxii." "How long he sate, or when his death happened no authority has occurred to me that makes it clear." Panmure MS, page 107.

20.—G., 1424.—"Dominus G. is bishop of Brechin in the year 1424, but what name this initial letter stands for I do not pretend to say." Keith, page 163. There

is no trace of any such bishop amongst the papers belonging to the burgh of Brechin, nor does the Panmure MS notice him.

21.—JOHN DE CARNOTH, 1429.—He “was bishop of this see when he accompanied Princess Margaret, daughter of King James I., into France, in order to be espoused to Lewis XI, then dauphin of that kingdom, anno 1435. John is bishop here anno 1449. John, bishop of this see, was sent into England on an embassy with divers others, anno 1450. He is also mentioned April 18, 1451.” Keith, page 163. The Cartulary of Brechin proves that John was bishop of this see on 4th September 1429, and on 20th October of that year, Walter, Palatine of Strathearn, with consent of John, bishop of Brechin, confirms to the chapter of Brechin the right of patronage of the parish church of Cortachie. “He is styled conservator privilegiorum ecclesie Scoticane,” says Dr. Russel, page 561. The name of John *Crannoch*, bishop of Brechin, occurs in a great variety of papers connected with the burgh, down to the 17th November 1453. He died August 1456, vide chronicles of King James II. Dr. Russel says “the following is an entry under the year 1456, in the brief chronicle of the reign of King James II. at Auchinleck. Itm yt samyn zer and moneth (August) decessit i. Brechyne mast. Jhone Crenok, Bischop of Brechyne, yt was callit a gud actif man and all his tyme wele gouvnants.”

22.—GEORGE SHERSWOOD, 1456.—“Chancellour of Dunkeld, and secretarie to King James II. This prelate was a son of Sherswood of Bettshiell in Berwickshire; being bred a churchman, his first station in the church was rector of Cultar anno 1449. Mr.

Sherswood being a learned and metled man, King James made him first one of his clerks, and after that his secretarie. In the 1453, he was made chancellor of Dunkeld, and in 1454 was sent upon an embassy to England; soon after his return he was promoted to be chancellor of Scotland in the 1455, and he held the office till the death of the king in 1460, how long Bishop Sherswood lived thereafter, the records of the see being defective, I cannot be positive." Panmure MS, page 108. Noticed by Keith, page 164. "In his time was the church of Funaven made one of the chapter." Spotswood, page 108. This scarce seems correct, see Bishop Balfour, No. 24. Bishop Sherswood's name only occurs once in the cartulary of Brechin on 19th April 1458. Dr. Russel says, page 562, "George, bishop of Brechin, chancellor of Scotland, occurs 19th April 1448, in reg. eccl. Brechin. f. 99." It is very evident that Keith is wrong when he introduces Robert as Bishop of Brechin in 1456, for then there was no room for Bishop Sherswood, regarding whose incumbency, there can be no doubt. Keith, speaking of this bishop Robert, says, page 163, "as he is not in any former list of the bishops of this see, I can say no more of him, but that he might have died this year, and his successor been in the see in the course of the same." But it would appear this could not be, for Sherswood was appointed coadjutor in 1448 while Carnock was alive. Besides, there is no mention of this bishop Robert in the cartulary of Brechin, nor does the Panmure MS take any notice of him. Spotswood also omits him. Sir Robert de Crannoch, chanter of Brechin, is witness to an obligation, granted by the chaplains of the cathe-

dral church of Brechin to Robert Hill, on 17th November 1453. Could Sir Robert Crannoch be the person whom Keith calls Bishop Robert?

23.—PATRICK GRAHAM, 1461.—He was son to Lord Graham, by Lady Mary Stewart, daughter to King Robert III., and hence, he was nephew to James II. Keith, page 164. Panmure MS, page 108. There is, in the cartulary of Brechin, a precept addressed to him by King James II., dated 2d January 1463. He was translated to the see of Saint Andrews in 1466, and was the first *archbishop* of that diocese, an honour which involved him in difficulties, pecuniary and political. He died in 1479, in Loch Leven Castle, a prisoner.

24.—JOHN BALFOUR, 1466.—“John, bishop of Brechin, chancellor, occurs 6th Sep. a. r. Jac. III., 21 reg. eccl. Brechin. f. liii, and previously, John is mentioned as bishop of Brechin 17th Feb. 1466-7, *ibid.* f. cxxii.” Russel, page 562. He “was bishop of this see, anno 1476, and assisted in the consecration of Bishop Livingstone of Dunkeld. He was bishop in the year 1470, and John was also bishop in the year 1501.” Keith, page 164. Panmure MS, page 108. Amongst the records of Brechin there is a charter, dated 13th September 1474, by which John, bishop of Brechin, with consent of David, Earl of Crawford, patron of the church of Finhaven, erects that parish church into a prebendary of Brechin. There is also amongst these records a decree of the lords of council and session, 30th June 1477, at the instance of John, bishop of Brechin, against George, Earl of Rothes, for the teind-duty of the earl’s lands in the Mearns.

25.—WILLIAM MELDRUM, 1500.—Keith says,

"*Walter Meldrum*,—At what time he came to be bishop, or how long he sat in this see, does not, as yet, appear by any proper voucher that I have chanced to meet with. The chronology, however, rather requires that some person should be in this see between John Balfour and the next bishop," page 165. Dr. Russel says, "*William*, anno 1511, omitted by Keith," page 561, and he adds, page 562; "*William*, Bishop of Brechin, previously occurs, viz., 6th May, anno 1500, and 29th June, 1505, in reg. ec. Brechin. f. xiv, and f. xlvi." The Panmure MS remarks, page 108, "*William Meldrum*: how long he lived bishop does not appear." Amongst the Brechin papers, there is an obligation by Gaspar Boncian, merchant in Florence, dated at Antwerpe, 4th January 1488, to the chapter of the cathedral church of Brechin, by which he obliges "himself, in consideration of the sum of 200 ducats of Flanders, to proceed to the court of Rome for the purpose of obtaining two bulls expedite by the pope, relating to the appointment of Sir William Meldrum, Vicar of Brechin, to the see of Brechin, in the event of the resignation or decease of John, now bishop thereof." There is also a procuratory extant, dated 6th October 1499, by William, *Bishop of Brechin*, empowering Sir Robert Keith, professor of Theology, and others, to compare before Pope Alexander VI., at Rome, and to present to him a bull, in name of the bishop, in order to obtain his confirmation. Subsequently, there are various documents in name of Bishop *William*; in 1497, regarding a dispute with John Dempster of Ouchterless; in 1500, anent a controversy with the Laird of Pitarro; in 1505, in a charter of lands to the church by the Duchess of Montrose;

in 1506, 1507 and 1508, in several deeds ; and, finally, in 1512, in a charter by Gilbert Strachan, of certain lands to the church, "for the safety of the souls of the deceased James, Archbishop of Saint Andrews, and William, now Bishop of Brechin." There can, consequently, be no doubt that William, and not Walter, was bishop during this period.

26.—JOHN HEPBURN, 1517.—He was descended of the family of Bothwell, and was one of the bishops who recognised the Earl of Arran's right to the regency in 1543. He died in the month of August 1558. Keith, page 165. Panmure MS, 108. There are documents extant in the records of Brechin, in which this bishop's name is mentioned, from the 1518 to the 1556.

27.—DONALD CAMPBELL, 1558.—"Mr. Donald Campbell, a son of the family of Argyle, was destined his successor by the court here, and, no doubt, was elected by the chapter, and therefore Bishop Lesly says, that the abbot of Coupar did succede Bishop Hepburn of Brechin. But his election being cass'd at Rome, in regard Mr. Campbell had renounced popery and turned protestant ; he was so modest as never to use the title of bishop, but only abbot of Coupar, and was one of the clergy who sate in the parliament 1560, where the reformation of religion received the first legall sanction, and the pope's authority was abolished ; he died Lord Privy Seall to Queen Mary, in the end of the 1562, whereupon the bishoprick of Brechin was given, by Queen Mary, to a person who was much more acceptable to her majesty than the other, by reason of his zeal for the Roman Catholic religion." Panmure MS, page 109. Keith, page 165.

28.—JOHN SINCLAIR, 1563.—“Mr John Sinclair, dean of Restalrig and a brother of the house of Roslyn, being a person learned in the civil and canon law, he was made one of the Lords of the Sessione, and after that president of the Sessione, and he continued in his office till his death in Apryle 1565.” Panmure MS, page 109. Keith, page 165. Buchanan reports Sinclair as one of those who advised Queen Mary to adopt extreme measures against the reformers. B. 17 § 7.

#### REFORMATION.

29.—ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, 1566.—“This gentleman was a younger brother of James Campbell of Arkinglass, who was comptroller of Scotland in the minority of King James VI. Being educate with a view to the church, before the reformation, he was made provost of Saint Giles in Edinburgh anno 1554, upon the resignation of Robert Crichton, Bishop of Dunkeld. Seeing how matters went at the time of the reformation, he turned with the times and became a protestant. By the recommendation of his chief, the Earl of Argyle, he had a grant of the bishoprick, with a power which, I believe, was never given to any bishop of the christian church but himself, at least, so far as my reading has led me, which was cum potestate disponendi beneficium infra totum diocesis. Mr. Campbell seeing episcopacy near abolished after the reformation, he made use of that power and faculty the queen had invested him with, and accordingly alienated most part of the lands and titles of the bishoprick, to his patron, the Earl of Argyle, who had got him preferred to the benefice, reserving to himself and his successors scarce so much



as was a moderate enough competency for a minister at Brechin. He long while discharged the office of particular pastor at Brechin, and kept the title of bishop tho' he discharged no other part of episcopal function than what belongs to an ordinary minister in the church, save the title, till the 1572 episcopacy was first restored. He sate in many parliaments on the spiritual side, even when few others did, as a bishop, even till the time of his death in the beginning of the 1606." Panmure MS, pages 109, 110. Keith, page 166. There are amongst the records of Brechin, charters granted by this bishop in January 1566, and down to the 1605, most of which prove that Bishop Campbell fully exercised the power of alienating property with which he was endowed.

30.—ANDREW LAMB, 1606.—Minister at Burntisland, succeeded in this see in 1606, and continued in it till the year 1619, when he was translated to Galloway on the death of Bishop Coupar. He was one of the three bishops who went, by the orders of James I, into England, where he received episcopal consecration on the 20th October 1610. Keith, page 167: Panmure MS, page 110. There is a charter by the precentor, with Bishop Andrew's consent, to the town council of Brechin in 1619, and there are other writings, with this bishop's consent, amongst the records of the town. A board in the session-house, on which are recorded gifts to the church, bears, "1615, Andrew, Bishop of Brechin, gifted the Hearse before the pulpit"—a brass chandelier for holding candles.

31.—DAVID LINDSAY, 1619.—He was son to Colonel John Lindsay, a brother of the laird of Edhel (in Angus). He was minister at Dundee, from whence

he was translated to the see of Brechin, and consecrated at Saint Andrews, 23d November 1619. "He appears, by his writings remaining, to have been a man of good learning. By reason of his book, called *Resolutions for Kneeling at the Sacrament*, he became very acceptable to the court, insomuch, as King Charles the First was pleased to translate him to the Bishoprick of Edinburgh upon Dr. Forbes's death in 1634, where he continued till the 1638." Panmure MS, page 111. "The fury of the mob was like to have fallen heavy on this prelate, at the first reading of the liturgy in the High Church of Edinburgh, on Sunday the 23d July 1637. He was deposed and excommunicated by the assembly, 1638, whereupon he withdrew into England, where he died during the following troubles." Keith, page 61. Amongst the records of Brechin, there are charters, with this bishop's signature, in 1623.

32.—WALTER WHITEFORD, 1634.—According to Keith, page 167, he was son of James Whiteford of that ilk, by Margaret, his wife, daughter of Sir James Somerville of Camnethan, and was first a minister at Monkland, and sub-dean of Glasgow, and then rector of Moffat, retaining his subdeanry in commendam. The Panmure MS gives the following account of this prelate: "In the 1620, he was inaugurate Dr. of Divinity, and, last of all, he was promoted to this see upon the recommendation of the secretarie, Sir William Alexander of Menstrie, Earl of Stirling, and was consecrate in September 1634, and he held the see till the 1638, when he was outed and excommunicated by the General Assembly of Glasgow. Bishop Whiteford being very obnoxious to the fury of the incensed multitude, for

being thought among the most forward of any of his brethren for the Liturgy and Book of Canons, which at first set the kingdom in a flame, when the troubles broke out, for the security of his person, he fled into England, where he died in the 1643." Panmure MS, page 112. There are no charters extant amongst the Brechin records with this bishop's name on them, but it has been lately ascertained in a Court of Law, that "the Reverend Father in God, Walter, Bishop of Brechin," and the town council of Brechin on 15th May 1637, framed a particular act regarding the mul-tures of the mills of Brechin. In Wood's Peerage, vol I., page 753, it is stated that Bishop Whitford or Whiteford, married Anne, one of the daughters of Sir John Carmichael of Carmichael.

33.—DAVID STRACHAN, 1662.—"Upon the re-stauration of Episcopacy by King Charles II, his majesty promoted to this see, Mr. David Strachan, Parson of Fettercairn. This prelate was a branch of the antient family of the Strachans of Thorntoun, in the county of Kincardine, where he was born, and had his education in the University of Saint Andrews, where he took his degrees. After that, betaking him-self to the study of Theologie, which he pursued with great diligence and industry, he was licensed to the ministry, and soon after settled at Fettercairn. Being a person of great and eminent loyalty, which he had manifested upon severall occasions during the usurpa-tion, he was, upon the king's return, as the reward of his fidelity and merit, pointed out to be a bishop, and by the favour of the Earle of Middleton, who was Mr. Strachan's near relation, was promoted to this see and consecrate, June 1st anno, 1662, where he

exercised the office of his function till the 1671, when death translated him from this mortall life to a state of immortality." Panmure MS, page 112. Keith, page 167. This bishop concurs with Mr. John Strachan, the arch-dean, in the grant of a piece of land to the hospital of Brechin, on 11th April 1667, and this is the only time his name is found amongst the existing records of the burgh of Brechin. The session records bear that the bishop, without naming him, made his first entry to, and preached in the cathedral church on 3d August 1662. A placard in the session-house, recording grants made to the church, states, "1665, David, Bishop of Brechin, gifted the orlodge to the steeple"—the clock in the steeple.

34.—ROBERT LAURIE, 1674.—He was "son of Joseph Laurie, minister at Stirling—was first appointed to the charge of a parish; and being a celebrated preacher, and a man of moderation, he was, upon the restoration, made dean of Edinburgh, and then advanced to the see of Brechin; but the benefice of this bishopric being small, he was allowed to retain his deanry, and continued to exercise a particular ministry at the church of the Holy Trinity in Edinburgh, till his death in the year 1677." Keith, page 168. From the records of the town council of 17th September 1674, it appears "that Mr. John Dempster, schoolmaster, is employed by the bishop to supply his charge as minister," because, as the margin of the council record bears, "the bishop was called to be preacher at———" There is also engrossed in the council-book a curious letter, signed "Mr. Robert Laurie, Bishop of Brechin," addressed to the town council on 16th April 1675, regarding the misconduct of a Robert Strachan, kirk-officer.

35.—**GEORGE HALIBURTON, 1678.**—“George Haliburton, minister at Coupar of Angus, was consecrated bishop of this see anno 1678; and was translated thence to the see of Aberdeen, in the year 1682.” Keith, page 168. Panmure MS, page 114. Some business is delayed in the session on 2d June, 1678, “till the bishop be present,” and he is marked as present in the session on the 30th September that year. The head court of the burgh of Brechin of 27th September, 1678, was held “Per Reverendum in christo Patrem Georgium Episcopum Brechinensis et Balivos;” and, on 29th September 1681, this bishop, with his own hand, enters an appointment in the council book, of “David Donaldson, younger, to continue my balzie for the ensuing year,” and on 3d October following, this prelate, as provost, takes the lead in signing the oaths to government, along with the rest of the council.

36.—**ROBERT DOUGLAS, 1682.**—“A lineal branch of Douglas of Glenbervy, in the shire of the Mearns, afterwards Earls of Angus, now Dukes of Douglas, was born anno 1626. He had his education in the King’s College of Aberdeen, was minister first at Laurencekirk in the Mearns, then of Bothwell, Renfrew and Hamilton, next Dean of Glasgow, from whence he was promoted to the see of Brechin anno 1682, and anno 1684, was translated to the bishopric of Dunblane.” Keith, page 168. Panmure MS, page 114. Robert, Bishop of Brechin, his son, Silvester Douglas, and others, were admitted honorary burgesses of Brechin, 1st August 1682. This bishop preached in the cathedral church, only on three occasions, twice in October 1682, and once in October 1683.

37.—ALEXANDER CAIRNCROSS, 1684.—“ Though he was the very heir of the ancient family of the Cairncrosses of Cowmislie, yet was so low in his circumstances, that he was under a necessity to betake himself to an employment, and was a dyer in the Cannongate of Edinburgh, which employment he exercised for many years, and with such success, that he was enabled to acquire some part of the estate which had pertained to his ancestors. He was first parson of Dumfries, until the year 1684, at which time, by recommendation of the Duke of Queensberry, he was promoted to the see of Brechin, and soon thereafter to that of Glasgow, which was ratified by the king's letters-patent, 3d December, 1684. Here he continued till the year 1686, when, having incurred the displeasure of the Lord Chancellor, the Earl of Perth, (and deservedly too, if all be true which Dr. James Canaries, minister at Selkirk, relates,) the king sent a letter to the privy council, removing him from the Archbishopric of Glasgow, of the date, January 13, 1687. A very irregular step, surely, the king should have taken a more canonical course. He lived privately until the revolution in 1688, after which period he was taken notice of by the new powers, who, finding him not altogether averse to make compliance with them, he was made Bishop of Raphoe in Ireland, the 16th May, 1693, and in that see he continued till his death anno 1701. He left a considerable estate to his nephew, by a sister, George Home of Whitfield.” Keith, page 269. He was consecrate Bishop of Brechin in June or August 1684, and on 6th December following, he was presented to the archbishoprick of Glasgow. See vol. 9 of the Abstracts of the

Secretary's books, in the possession of the family of Mar, Nos. 39 and 40. Keith, pages 168 and 269. Panmure MS, page 114. He is present at the election of magistrates of Brechin on Monday 29th September 1684, and then appoints John Molison as bishop's bailie, and he was present at the head court of the burgh, held 4th October same year, but his name does not afterwards occur in the records of the council.

38.—JAMES DRUMMOND, 1684.—“ This gentleman was the son of Mr. James Drummond, minister at Foulis, in Perthshire ; being educate with a view of serving in the church, he was first ordained to the ministry at Achterarder, and after that was removed to the parsonage of Muthill, where he exercised his pastorall function till the see of Brechin falling to vaick, by the translation thence of Bishop Cairncross to Glasgow, in the end of the 1684, he was preferred to this see. He was consecrate at the Abbey-Church of Holyroodhouse the 25th December 1684. I had a very good character of Bishop Drummond from severall persons of honor and probity, who had the favor of his acquaintance, and notwithstanding the influence, it was, and might have been presumed, his chief and patron might have had with him with respect to the design of removing and taking away the laws against popry, yet he was firm and resolved to oppose the design in his station as much as any of his brethren, the bishops, and no man was more stedfast in the protestant religion than he, and both by his preaching and otherways, he gave ground to believe he would have been as stanch as any man against the opening a door to let in popry, in a parliamentary way, if it had come to the test. This piece of justice, I thought,

was due to the memory of this good man, having had this account of him from a person of honour, who had access to know the bishop's sentiments of this matter, and was far from having any bias to the order of bishops, if it had not been a piece of justice to the bishop's memory. After the revolution, Bishop Drummond being deprived, with the rest of his brethren, tooke himself to a life of retirement, and lived mostly in the Countess of Errol's family, where he died in the year 1695, aged 66 years." Panmure MS, pages 115-16. "It is to be said of this prelate, that though he had been promoted by the favor of his chief, the Earl of Perth, then chancellor of the kingdom, yet he always shewed himself as averse to popery as any person in the church, and it is certain there were but very few of the bishops (if any at all) who favored an alteration in religion." Keith, page 169. It appears from the records of the town of Brechin, that Bishop Drummond had not reached that burgh on 19th February 1685, as the council then appointed Alexander Rires, to be doctor of the grammar-school, "provided my Lord Bishop, at his coming to the place, doe approve." The bishop is present in council on 25th September 1685, and he preached in the cathedral church on 1st October 1685.

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After the revolution, the deposed bishops continued, during their respective lifetimes, to exercise spiritual jurisdiction over such clergymen as acknowledged them in their several dioceses. But as most of these bishops were old men, it was deemed prudent to add to the number of bishops by the election of younger men, who were received into the Episcopal College



without having any particular diocese assigned to them. Dr. Russel, from whom we borrow the account of the post-revolution Bishops, tells us that the Reverend John Falconer, formerly one of the ministers of Cairnlice in Fife, was thus consecrated a bishop at Dundee on 28th April 1709. He is described as a man of learning as well as of business, and of great piety and prudence. "In regard to his discharge of episcopal offices (says Dr. Russel) we find, that in the year 1720, immediately after the death of Bishop Rose (of Edinburgh) a letter was addressed to him by a great body of the clergy in Angus and Mearns, in which they request him to assume the spiritual government and inspection of them, 'promising to acknowledge him as their proper bishop, and to pay all due and canonical obedience to him as such.' During the lifetime of Bishop Rose, and at the request of that prelate, he had frequently officiated among them with great approbation. He, therefore, accepted this affectionate call, as he also accepted a similar one at the same time from the clergy in the presbytery of Saint Andrews, where he had constantly resided; and, accordingly, with the consent of his brethren, he acted in these two districts as local bishop as long as he lived. But his useful life was doomed not to be long. He died in 1723." Russel, pages 523.

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39.—Mr. JOHN OUCHTERLONIE, 1731.—"After the death of Bishop Rose of Edinburgh, the clergy of Fife, Angus and Mearns, appear to have had episcopal offices performed amongst them by Bishop John Falconer. This excellent and learned man, it is known to the reader, died in 1723, between which

date and the period of the concordate in 1731, I know not how the duties of a bishop were discharged in those extensive districts. By the articles of agreement just alluded to, it was provided that the diocese of Brechin, together with the Carse of Gowrie, the presbyteries of Dundee, Arbroath and Mearns, should be under the inspection of Bishop Ouchterlonie. It was on the 29th of November, 1726, that Mr. Ouchterlonie was consecrated at Edinburgh by the Bishops Freebairn, Duncan and Cant, the only three, it is added, who could be prevailed on to do it. The objection to him, so far as can be gathered from the several hints, which are rather mystically expressed, had a reference to the Erastian notions, which, at that time, disturbed the peace of the episcopal church, and this candidate for the mitre, appears to have relied more on his interest at the court of Saint Germain, than on the esteem of his brethren, or the good opinion of his superiors. Bishop Ouchterlonie died in the year 1742." Russel, pages 543-4.

40.—Mr. JAMES RAIT, 1742.—“The clergy of Brechin lost no time in electing a successor to the ordinary, with whom the concordate had supplied them. They made choice of Mr. Rait, presbyter in Dundee, a highly respected character, who was, on the 4th of October, 1742, elevated to the episcopate by the hands of Bishops Rattray, Keith and White, and forthwith collated to the superintendency of Brechin. Of this bishop, a learned correspondent says, ‘I know nothing more than that he possessed strong good sense, had a very dignified manner when performing his episcopal offices, and that he was a celebrated preacher, preaching without notes till he

became a very old man. His charges to the youth, whom he confirmed, he delivered without notes and without hesitation, long after he was eighty years of age.' The reader may not be displeased to peruse the following testimonials in favour of Mr. Rait, addressed, as was the practice of that period, to the Lord Bishop of Edinburgh. 'These are to testify that Mr. James Rait, son of Mr. William Rait, minister of Monikie, being, by your lordship's order, admitted to pass the preparatory trials before such ministers in Dundee and the neighbourhood, as you appointed, in order to his entering into the ministry, hath done the same to our very great satisfaction, and, therefore, we do, with the more confidence and earnestness, recommend him to your lordship to obtain your lordship's licence for preaching, or to get him into the orders of a deacon, as your lordship judges fit. In witness whereof, these presents are written by our joint allowance, and ordered to be signed by our moderator and clerk, *ad hunc effectum*, at Dundee the twentieth and first day of October, 1712 years, (Signed) Robert Norie, preses; James Goldman, clerk.' The venerable bishop died in the year 1777." Russel, pages 544-5.

41.—Mr. GEORGE INNES, 1778.—"This bishop was minister of a chapel in Aberdeen, and was consecrated at Alloa on the 13th of August 1778, by Bishop Falconer, Bishop Rose, and Bishop Petrie. He was collated at the same time to the superintendence of the district of Brechin, but did not live long to discharge the duties of it. He died on the 18th of May 1781, after which date the diocese remained some years vacant." Russel, page 545.

42.—Dr. ABERNETHY DRUMMOND, 1787.—"It

has been already mentioned that this distinguished man was elevated to the episcopate on the 26th of September 1787; that he was consecrated as bishop of Brechin, but that almost immediately afterwards, he was elected to the see of Edinburgh, where he had his pastoral charge, and that he continued to preside over the clergy of that district till the year 1805. He was descended from the family of Abernethy of Saltoun, in the shire of Banff, and it was only upon his marriage with the heiress of Hawthornden, in the county of Mid-Lothian, that he assumed the name of Drummond. He wrote many small tracts, and was a good deal engaged in theological controversy, both with Protestants and Roman Catholics, but his intemperate manner defeated, in most cases, the benevolence of his intentions, and only irritated those whom he had wished to convince. He died on the 27th of August 1809." Russel, page 545.

43.—Mr. JOHN STRACHAN, 1788.—"This most respectable clergyman was sprung from the family of Strachan of Thorntoun, in the county of Kincardine, now represented by his kinsman, the gallant Admiral, Sir Richard Strachan. He was consecrated at Peterhead on the same day with Doctor A. Drummond, to whom, indeed, he was at that period appointed coadjutor, but the latter being, within a few months afterwards, elected by the clergy of Edinburgh, Bishop Strachan was preferred to the undivided charge of the diocese of Brechin. He lived to a very advanced age, having, however, survived for some time the powers of his mind as well as of his body, and died on the 28th of January 1810, universally beloved and regretted." Russel, pages 545-6.

44.—**DR. GEORGE GLEIG, 1810.**—"Seldom can it fall to the lot of a communion, so small and so poor as the episcopal church in Scotland, to enjoy the credit attached to so great a name as that of Bishop Gleig. His reputation as a scholar and philosopher, are so well established by his numerous works, that it is as unnecessary as it would be impertinent in me to attempt an eulogium, of which he would be the first to call in question the propriety. Having long discharged, with much ability, the various duties of a presbyter, he was, in the autumn of 1808, elected by the clergy of Brechin as coadjutor to their aged bishop, and consecrated at Aberdeen on the 30th of October the same year, by Bishop Skinner, Bishop Jolly and Bishop Torry. On the death of Bishop Strachan in 1810, he was preferred to the sole charge of the diocese; and in 1816, upon the demise of Bishop Skinner, he was chosen by his brethren to fill the office of Primus, in virtue of which he presides in all the meetings of the episcopal college." Russel, page 546.

45.—**DAVID MOIR, A.M., 1837.**—Bishop Gleig having become unable, through the infirmities of age, to exercise his episcopal duties, the Reverend David Moir, minister of the chapel in Brechin, was elected by the clergy as his coadjutor and successor, and consecrated and collated to the superintendence of the diocese, by Bishops Walker, Skinner and Low, at Edinburgh, on the 8th of October 1837.

# **LIST OF THE MAGISTRATES AND TOWN COUNCIL OF BRECHIN, FROM APRIL 1672 to NOVEMBER 1838, INCLUSIVE.**

In the following List from 1673 to 1715, there are letters affixed to the names of the Bailies; (P.) denoting that the Bailie was nominated by the Earl of Panmure; (E.) nominated by Mr. James Erskine, as come in place of Lord Panmure; (G.) by Lord Grange, formerly Mr. James Erskine; (B.) nominated by the Bishop of Brechin, and (T.) implying Town's Bailie, or the Bailie chosen by the Town Council.

<p align="center"><b>1672.</b></p> <p>George Steele, David Donaldson, yr. } bailies. David Liddell, John Liddell, dean of guild David Donaldson, elder John Jameson, Laur. Skinner Andrew Allan, John Fenton James Allan, James Henderson John Skinner, John Low</p>	<p>James Allan, hospital master David Donaldson, elder John Jamieson, Laur. Skinner Andrew Allan, John Fenton John Skinner, John Low</p>
<p align="center"><b>1673.</b></p> <p>John Liddell, bailie, (P) David Donaldson, yr. bailie, (B) David Liddell, bailie, (T) Andrew Allan, dean of guild John Fenton, treasurer James Allan, hospital master Geo. Steele, D. Donaldson, elder Laurence Skinner Jn. Jamieson, Jas. Henderson John Skinner, John Low</p>	<p align="center"><b>1675.</b></p> <p>Dd. Donaldson, yr. (B) } David Liddell, (T) } bailies. James Allan, (P) } Andrew Allan, dean of guild James Henderson, treasurer John Fenton, hospital master George Steele John Liddell, John Low Dd. Donaldson, elder, James Low John Skinner, John Allan 23d. December Alexander Young, councillor bailie John Liddell, deceased</p>
<p align="center"><b>1674.</b></p> <p>George Steele, (T) } John Liddell, (P) } bailies. David Liddle, (B) } Dd. Donaldson, yr. dean of guild James Henderson, treasurer</p>	<p align="center"><b>1676.</b></p> <p>James Allan, (B) } Laurence Skinner, (P) } bailies Andrew Allan, (T) } Dd. Donaldson, yr. dean of guild John Skinner, treasurer John Fenton, hospital master David Liddell</p>

**Dd. Donaldson, elder, Jn. Allan**  
**Geo. Steele, Alexander Young**  
**James Henderson, John Bailie**

1677.

**James Allan, (P)**  
**Laurence Skinner, (B)** } bailies  
**Andrew Allan, (T)**  
**Dd. Donaldson, yr. dean of guild**  
**Alexander Young, treasurer**  
**John Skinner, hospital master**  
**David Liddell**  
**Jn. Fenton, D. Donaldson, elder**  
**George Steele, James Low**  
**James Henderson, James Cowie**

1678.

\* **George, Bishop of Brechin**  
**James Allan, (B)** } bailies  
**Andrew Allan, (T)**  
**John Skinner, (P)**  
**Da. Donaldson, yr. dean of guild**  
**James Cowie, treasurer**  
**David Stewart, hospital master**  
**Laurence Skinner**  
**Da. Donaldson elder, J. Jamieson**  
**Da. Liddell, James Henderson**  
**Alexander Young, James Low**

1679.

**James Allan, (P)** } bailies  
**Lau. Skinner, (T)**  
**John Skinner, (B)**  
**David Liddell, dean of guild**  
**James Cowie, treasurer**  
**David Stewart, hospital master**  
**Andrew Allan**  
**Da. Donaldson, yr. J. Jamieson**  
**D. Donaldson, eld. Ja. Henderson**  
**Alexander Young, James Low,**  
 8th January 1680.  
**John Fenton, councillor, vice**  
**Alexander Young, deceased.**

1680.

**John Jamieson, (P) bailie**

\* The Bishop, George Haliburton, is mentioned as sitting in council at this time, and frequently afterwards.

**Da. Donaldson, yr. (B)** } bailies  
**John Skinner, (T)**  
**David Liddell, dean of guild**  
**James Cowie, treasurer**  
**David Stewart, hospital master**  
**James Allan, James Henderson**  
**Andrew Allan, John Fenton**  
**Laurence Skinner**  
**D. Donaldson, elder, Jn. Gibson**  
 30th June, 1681  
**David Liddell, appointed to officiate as bailie in place of John Skinner, who had left Brechin**

1681.

**John Jamieson, (P)** } bailies  
**Da. Donaldson, yr., (B)**  
**David Liddell, (T)**  
**James Allan, dean of guild**  
**Francis Molison, treasurer**  
**David Stewart, hospital master**  
**Andrew Allan**  
**James Cowie, James Henderson**  
**Laurence Skinner, John Fenton**  
**D. Donaldson, elder, Jn. Gibson**

1682.

**Robert, bishop of Brechin**  
**John Jamieson, (P)** } bailies  
**Da. Donaldson, yr., (B)**  
**David Liddell, (T)**  
**James Allan, dean of guild**  
**Alexander Dall, treasurer**  
**David Stewart, hospital master**  
**Francis Molison**  
**And. Fairweather, John Fenton**  
**Lau. Skinner, Jas. Henderson**  
**D. Donaldson, elder, Jn. Gibson**

1683.

**Robert, bishop of Brechin (subscribing provost of Brechin.)**  
**John Jamieson, (P)** } bailies  
**Da. Donaldson, yr., (B)**  
**David Liddell, (T)**  
**James Allan, dean of guild.**  
**Alexander Dall, treasurer**  
**John Hendry, hospital master**  
**David Stewart**  
**Fras. Molison, John Fenton**  
**Lau. Skinner, Jas. Henderson**

D. Donaldson, elder, Jn. Gibson  
26th September, 1684

David Gray, merchant, John  
Low, smith, councillors, vice  
Baillie Donaldson, deceased,  
and John Gibson, removed.

1684.

Alexander, bishop of Brechin  
(Præfectus)

David Liddell, (P) }  
Laurence Skinner, (T) } bailies  
Francis Molison, (B) }

James Allan, dean of guild  
Alexander Dall, treasurer  
John Hendry, hospital master  
John Jamieson  
David Gray, James Cowie  
Da. Stewart, Jas. Henderson  
D. Donaldson, John Low

1685

James, bishop, of Brechin

James Allan, (B) }  
Laurence Skinner (T) } bailies  
James Cowie, (P) }

Francis Molison, dean of guild  
David Gray, treasurer  
John Hendry, hospital master  
David Liddell

Alex. Dall. Da. Stewart  
Alex. Young, Jas. Henderson  
Alexander Jamieson\*, Jn. Low

1686, 1687, and 1688.

Elections suspended by order of  
King and Privy Council; and  
former magistrates and coun-  
cil continued in their offices.

1689.

David Liddell, (T) }  
James Cowie, (P) } bailies  
Francis Molison, dean of guild  
Alexander Young, treasurer  
Alex. Jamieson, hospital master  
Lawrence Skinner, Wm. Bailie  
Ja. Henderson, John Milne

David Stewart, David Young  
David Gray, Andrew Knox

1690.

Francis Molison, (P) }  
Alexander Young, (T) } bailies  
David Liddell, dean of guild  
William Bailie, treasurer  
Alexr. Jamieson, hospital master  
James Cowie, Andrew Knox  
John Fenton, James Low  
Jn. Milne, Alex. Fairweather, yr.  
David Young, James Thom

1691.

Francis Molison, (P) }  
Alexander Young, (T) } bailies  
David Liddell, dean of guild  
Alexander Jamieson, treasurer  
John Milne, hospital master  
William Bailie, Andrew Knox  
James Cowie, James Low  
John Fenton  
Alexander Fairweather  
David Young, James Thom,  
30th May, 1692.  
David Young, hospital master,  
vice John Milne, deceased

1692.

Francis Molison, (P) }  
Alexander Young (T) } bailies  
David Liddell, dean of guild  
Alexander Jamieson, treasurer  
William Bailie, hospital master  
James Cowie, Andrew Knox  
David Gray, James Low  
J. Sandieson  
A. Fairweather  
David Young, James Thom.

1693.

Francis Molison (P) }  
Alexander Young, (T) } bailies  
David Gray, dean of guild  
Alexander Jamieson, treasurer  
William Bailie, hospital master  
David Liddell, Andrew Knox  
James Cowie, James Low  
J. Sandieson, A. Fairweather  
David Young, James Thom

\* See 7th August, 1686, et  
seq. sometimes called "Jamie."



1694.

James Cowie, (P) } bailies  
 Wm. Baillie (T) }  
 Alexander Young, dean of guild  
 David Young, treasurer  
 A. Fairweather, hospital master  
 Francis Molison, J. Sandieson  
 David Gray, Andrew Knox  
 A. Jamieson, James Low  
 David Liddell, James Thom

1695.

Alexander Young, (T) } bailies  
 William Baillie, (P) }  
 David Liddell, dean of guild  
 David Young, treasurer  
 A. Fairweather, hospital master  
 J. Cowie, J. Sandieson  
 J. Donaldson, John Wood  
 D. Gray, James Low  
 Jo. Spence, James Thom

1696.

Alexander Young, provost  
 William Baillie, (P) } bailies  
 James Cowie, (T) }  
 David Gray, dean of guild  
 James Thom, treasurer  
 A. Fairweather, hospital master  
 David Liddell  
 David Young, James Spence  
 J. Donaldson, John Wood  
 John Spence, James Low

1697.

Alexander Young, provost  
 David Liddell (P) } bailies  
 David Gray, (T) }  
 James Cowie, dean of guild  
 James Thom, treasurer  
 A. Fairweather, hospital master  
 William Baillie  
 David Young, Alex. Wilson  
 John Doig, James Millar  
 David Robertson, John Wood

1698.

Alexander Young, provost  
 David Gray, } bailies  
 John Doig, }  
 James Cowie, dean of guild

James Thom, treasurer  
 A. Fairweather, hospital master  
 David Liddell  
 A. Jamieson, yr.  
 A. Wilson  
 David Young, James Millar  
 D. Robertson, John Wood

NOTE.—In list of councillors  
 elected, William Baillie's name  
 is inserted by mistake, for that  
 of Alexander Wilson.

1699.

Alexander Young, provost  
 Alex. Fairweather } bailies  
 David Young }  
 William Baillie, dean of guild  
 David Robertson, treasurer  
 James Thom, hospital master  
 John Knox, convener  
 D. Gray, Ja. Millar  
 J. Cowie  
 A. Jamieson, yr.  
 A. Wilson, Alex. Cobb

1700.

John Doig, provost  
 William Baillie, (P) } bailies  
 A. Fairweather, (T) }  
 James Thom, dean of guild  
 David Robertson, treasurer  
 James Spence, hospital master  
 David Gray  
 Alex. Young, A. Jamieson, yr.  
 Alex. Jamieson, J. Knox, dea-  
 con convener  
 Alex. Wilson, David Myles

1701.

John Doig, provost  
 David Gray, (P) } bailies  
 A. Fairweather, (T) }  
 William Baillie, dean of guild  
 David Robertson, treasurer  
 James Spence, hospital master  
 John Donaldson, yr.  
 John Spence, A. Jamieson, yr.  
 A. Jamieson, J. Knox, deacon  
 convener  
 A. Wilson, David Myles

1702.

David Gray, provost  
 William Baillie, (P) } bailies  
 Alex. Fairweather, (T) }  
 Francis Molison, dean of guild  
 Alexander Wilson, treasurer  
 James Spence, hospital master  
 John Jamieson  
 A. Jamieson (formerly yr.) J.  
 Liddell  
 John Spence, John Knox  
 John Donaldson, David Myles

1703.

David Gray, provost  
 A. Fairweather, (P) } bailies  
 James Spence, (T) }  
 Francis Molison, dean of guild  
 Alexander Wilson, treasurer  
 John Spence, hospital master  
 James Donaldson  
 John Jamieson, John Liddell  
 A. Jamieson, John Knox  
 John Donaldson, David Myles

1704.

David Gray, provost  
 Francis Molison, (P) } bailies  
 James Spence, (T) }  
 A. Fairweather, dean of guild  
 Alexander Wilson, treasurer  
 John Spence, hospital master  
 James Donaldson  
 John Jamieson, John Liddell  
 Alex. Jamieson John Knox  
 John Donaldson, David Myles

1705.

Francis Molison, (P) } bailies  
 James Spence, (T) }  
 A. Fairweather, dean of guild  
 James Donaldson, treasurer  
 John Spence, hospital master  
 David Gray  
 Alexander Wilson  
 John Jamieson, John Liddell  
 Alex. Jamieson John Knox  
 John Donaldson, David Myles

1706.

Alexander Young, provost

David Young, (T) } bailies  
 D. Robertson, (E) }  
 James Cowie, dean of guild  
 Andrew Doig, treasurer  
 John Spence, hospital master  
 David Gray  
 John Doig, David Myles  
 A. Jamieson, John Liddell  
 John Knox  
 William Clark

1707.

Alexander Young, provost  
 James Cowie, (G) } bailies  
 David Young, (T) }  
 James Spence, dean of guild  
 Andrew Doig, treasurer  
 John Liddell, hospital master  
 David Robertson  
 David Gray, John Knox, deacon  
 convener  
 John Doig, David Myles  
 A. Jamieson, William Clark

NOTE.—James Cowie and David Gray did not qualify by taking oath of abjuration.

1708.

Alexander Young, provost  
 David Young, (G) } bailies  
 James Spence, (T) }  
 William Clark, dean of guild  
 Robert Whyte, treasurer  
 John Liddell, hospital master  
 Wm. Guthrie, A. Jamieson  
 Andrew Doig  
 David Robertson, John Knox  
 John Doig, David Myles

1709.

John Doig, provost  
 James Spence, (T) } bailies  
 Andrew Doig, (G) }  
 William Clark, dean of guild  
 Robert Whyte, treasurer  
 John Liddell, hospital master  
 Alexander Young  
 David Young, A. Jamieson  
 William Guthrie, John Knox  
 David Robertson, David Myles

## 1710.

John Doig, provost  
 Andrew Doig, (T) }  
 William Clark, (G) } bailies  
 James Spence, dean of guild  
 Robert Whyte, treasurer  
 Wm. Guthrie, hospital master  
 David Young  
 David Robertson, David Myles  
 A. Jamieson, Jo. Smith, ham-  
 merman  
 John Knox, David Windrem

## 1711.

John Doig, provost  
 Andrew Doig, (G) }  
 William Clark, (T) } bailies  
 James Spence, dean of guild  
 John Knox, treasurer  
 Wm. Guthrie, hospital master  
 Robert Whyte  
 James Durie, David Myles  
 David Robertson, John Smith  
 Alex. Jamieson, Dav. Windrem

## 1712.

John Doig, provost  
 James Spence, (T) }  
 Andrew Doig, (G) } bailies  
 William Clark, dean of guild  
 John Knox, treasurer  
 Wm. Guthrie, hospital master  
 Robert Whyte  
 James Durie, David Myles  
 D. Robertson, John Smith  
 Alex. Jamieson, Dav. Windrem

## 1713, same as 1712.

## 1714.

John Doig, provost  
 James Spence, (T) }  
 Andrew Doig, (G) } bailies  
 William Clark, dean of guild  
 John Knox, treasurer  
 Wm. Guthrie, hospital master  
 Robert Whyte  
 James Durie, James Smith  
 D. Robertson, John Smith  
 Alexander Jamieson  
 David Windrem

## 1715.

James Spence, (P) }  
 William Clark, (T) } bailies  
 David Young, dean of guild  
 John Knox, treasurer  
 Wm. Guthrie, hospital master  
 Dav. Windrem, Robt. Allardice  
 Alex. Jamieson, John Liddell  
 Ja. Carnegie, Ja. M'Kenzie, yr.  
 John Ouchterlony, Robt. Adam

## 1716.

John Doig, provost  
 Andrew Doig, }  
 Robert Whyte, } bailies  
 David Robertson, dean of guild  
 James Durie, treasurer  
 Wm. Shepherd, hospital master  
 William Gardener, yr.  
 James Cowie, James Smith  
 James Doig, William Knox  
 John Smith, Henry Cowie

## 1717, same as 1716.

## 1718.

John Doig, provost  
 Andrew Doig, }  
 James Cowie, } bailies  
 James Doig, dean of guild  
 James Durie, treasurer  
 Wm. Shepherd, hospital master  
 Ro. Webster, W. Gardener, elder  
 William Gardener, yr.  
 John Smith, William Knox  
 James Smith, Henry Cowie

## 1719.

John Doig, provost  
 Andrew Doig, }  
 James Cowie, } bailies  
 James Doig, dean of guild  
 James Durie, treasurer  
 Wm. Shepherd, hospital master  
 Wm. Gardener, elder  
 Robert Webster, James Smith  
 Wm. Gardener, yr., A. Baillie  
 John Smith, Henry Cowie

## 1720.

John Doig, provost

Andrew Doig } bailies  
 James Cowie }  
 James Doig, dean of guild  
 James Durie, treasurer  
 Robert Webster, hospital master  
 Alexander Moug  
 David Gray, James Smith  
 W. Gardener, yr.  
 Alexander Baillie  
 John Smith, David Doig

1721.

John Doig, provost  
 Andrew Doig } bailies  
 John Knox }  
 David Doig, dean of guild  
 James Durie, treasurer  
 Robert Webster, hospital master  
 James Doig  
 Alexander Moug, John Smith  
 David Gray, James Smith  
 W. Gardener, yr. Alex. Baillie

1722.

John Doig, provost  
 Andrew Doig } bailies  
 John Knox }  
 David Doig, dean of guild  
 James Durie, treasurer  
 Alex. Moug, hospital master  
 John Lyon  
 James Doig, John Smith  
 David Gray, James Smith  
 W. Gardener, yr. Alex. Baillie

1723.

John Doig, provost  
 Andrew Doig } bailies  
 David Doig }  
 Alexander Moug, dean of guild  
 James Durie, treasurer  
 David Gray, hospital master  
 John Knox  
 John Lyon, John Smith  
 Henry Cowie, James Smith  
 W. Gardener, yr. Alex. Baillie

4th May, 1724.

David Gray, H. M., appointed  
 to uplift town's rents, vice Jas.  
 Durie, treasurer, deceased.

1724.

John Doig, provost  
 Andrew Doig } bailies  
 David Doig }  
 Alex. Moug, dean of guild  
 David Gray, treasurer  
 Edward Leslie, hospital master  
 Alexander Grim  
 John Lyon, John Smith  
 Henry Cowie, James Smith  
 W. Gardener  
 Alexander Baillie

1725, same as 1724.

1726.

Robert Whyte, provost  
 James Cowie } bailies  
 David Windrem }  
 Alexander Moug, dean of guild  
 Robert Allardice, treasurer  
 John Lyon, hospital master  
 John Knox  
 Alex. Baillie, Alex. Grim  
 Edward Leslie, James Smith  
 Henry Cowie, James Shiress

1727.

Robert Whyte, provost  
 James Cowie } bailies  
 David Windrem }  
 Alex. Baillie, dean of guild  
 Robert Allardice, treasurer  
 John Lyon, hospital master  
 John Knox  
 Charles Gordon, Robert Adam  
 John Duncan, James Smith  
 Wm. Shepherd, Ja. Shiress

1728.

John Knox, provost  
 Robert Allardice } bailies  
 David Windrem }  
 Alex. Baillie, dean of guild  
 Charles Gordon, treasurer  
 John Lyon, hospital master  
 John Windram  
 Robert Whyte, Robert Adam  
 John Duncan, James Smith  
 John Molison  
 John Adamson

1729.

John Knox, provost  
 Robert Allardice } bailies  
 Charles Gordon }  
 Alexander Baillie, dean of guild  
 John Molison, treasurer  
 John Lyon hospital master  
 James Knox  
 John Liddell, Robert Adam  
 David Mather, James Smith  
 Thomas Hill, John Adamson

1730.

John Knox, provost  
 Robert Allardice } bailies  
 Charles Gordon }  
 Alexander Baillie, dean of guild  
 John Molison, treasurer  
 John Lyon, hospital master  
 James Knox  
 John Liddell  
 Robert Adam  
 David Mather, James Smith  
 Thomas Hill, George Davidson

1731.

John Knox, provost  
 John Molison } bailies  
 Charles Gordon }  
 Alexander Baillie, dean of guild  
 James Knox, treasurer  
 James Smith, hospital master  
 Robert Allardice  
 John Lyon, Thomas Hill  
 John Liddell, Robert Adam  
 David Mather, Geo. Davidson

1732.

John Knox, provost  
 John Molison } bailies  
 Charles Gordon }  
 Edward Leslie, dean of guild  
 James Knox, treasurer  
 David Mather, hospital master  
 David Doig  
 James Carnegy, Thomas Hill  
 John Low, Robert Adam  
 John Liddell, G. Davidson

1733.

David Doig, provost

John Molison } bailies  
 Edward Leslie }  
 David Mather, dean of guild  
 James Knox, treasurer  
 John Low, hospital master  
 John Knox  
 David Young, Thomas Hill  
 James Carnegy, Robert Adam  
 Patrick Rennald, Geo. Davidson

1734.

David Doig, provost  
 John Molison } bailies  
 Edward Leslie }  
 David Mather, dean of guild  
 James Knox, treasurer  
 John Low, hospital master  
 John Knox  
 David Young, Thomas Hill  
 Alex. Grim, Robert Adam  
 Patrick Rennald, Geo. Davidson

1735.

David Doig, provost  
 John Molison } bailies  
 Edward Leslie }  
 David Mather, dean of guild  
 James Knox, treasurer  
 John Low, hospital master  
 John Knox  
 David Young, Thomas Hill  
 Alex. Grim, Robert Adam  
 Homer Grierson, Geo. Davidson

1736.

David Doig, provost  
 John Molison } bailies  
 David Mather }  
 Edward Leslie, dean of guild  
 James Knox, treasurer  
 John Low, hospital master  
 John Knox  
 Andrew Doig, Thomas Hill  
 Alex. Grim, Robert Adam  
 Homer Grierson, Geo. Davidson

1737.

David Doig, provost  
 John Molison } bailies  
 David Mather }  
 Homer Grierson, dean of guild

James Knox, treasurer  
 John Low, hospital master  
 Edward Leslie  
 John Knox, Thomas Hill  
 Andrew Doig, Robert Adam  
 Alex. Grim, Geo. Davidson

1738.

David Doig, provost  
 John Molison } bailies  
 David Mather }  
 Homer Grierson, dean of guild  
 Andrew Doig, treasurer  
 John Low, hospital master  
 James Grim  
 Edward Leslie, Thomas Hill  
 John Knox, Robert Adam  
 lex. Grim, Geo. Davidson

1739, same as 1738.

COUNCILLORS, 1740

John Molison, James Grim  
 David Mather, Geo. Davidson  
 John Low, James Black  
 John Knox, A. Low, yr.  
 Thomas Hill, D. Allardice  
 Robert Adam, Ja. Carnegy  
 John Lyon

Persons usurping the office of  
 Magistrates and Councillors,  
 from Michaelmas 1740, to 1st  
 August 1741.

David Doig, provost  
 Edward Leslie } bailies  
 Homer Grierson }  
 Wm. Shepherd, dean of guild  
 Andrew Doig, treasurer  
 John Smith, hospital master  
 Alexander Grim, elder  
 Geo. Davidson, Wm. Baillie  
 James Doig, Alex. Grim, yr.  
 David Doig, yr. Alex. Smith

Office-bearers, 5th Aug., 1741.

John Knox, provost  
 John Molison } bailies  
 David Mather }  
 John Low, dean of guild  
 Alexander Low, treasurer

John Lyon, hospital master

Michaelmas 1741.

John Knox, provost  
 John Molison } bailies  
 David Mather }  
 John Low, dean of guild  
 Alexander Low, treasurer  
 John Lyon, hospital master  
 Thomas Hill  
 Robert Adam, James Black  
 James Grim, D. Allardice  
 William Lowson, Ja. Carnegy

1742, same as 1741.

1743.

John Knox, provost  
 John Molison } bailies  
 David Mather }  
 John Low, dean of guild  
 Alexander Low, treasurer  
 Ja. Carnegy, hospital master  
 John Lyon  
 Thomas Hill, Robert Dorrat  
 Robert Adam, D. Allardice  
 William Lowson, Ja. Black

1744.

John Knox, provost  
 John Molison } bailies  
 David Mather }  
 John Low, dean of guild  
 Alexander Low, treasurer  
 James Carnegy, hospital master  
 John Lyon  
 Thomas Hill, Robert Dorrat  
 Robert Adam, James Black  
 J. Molison, yr., D. Allardice

COUNCILLORS, 1745.

Same as last year.

Election of office-bearers inter-  
 rupted by the rebels.

26th June 1747.

John Molison, provost  
 John Low } bailies  
 David Allardice }  
 John Lyon, elder, dean of guild  
 John Lyon, yr., treasurer

James Duncan, hospital master  
 John Knox, John Molison, yr.  
 David Mather, Alex. Baillie  
 J. Black, merchant councillors  
 G. Davidson, convr. } trades'  
 Robert Adam } councillors

#### Michaelmas 1747.

John Molison, provost  
 John Low } bailies  
 David Allardice }  
 Jn. Lyon, elder, dean of guild  
 John Lyon, yr. treasurer  
 James Duncan, hospital master  
 John Knox, John Molison, yr.  
 Alex. Low, Alex. Baillie  
 Ja. Black, merchant councillors  
 Rt. Dorrat, convr. } trades'  
 Robert Adam } councillors

1748, 1749, 1750, same as 1747.

#### 1751.

John Molison, provost  
 Edward Leslie } bailies  
 David Allardice }  
 John Lyon, elder, dean of guild  
 John Lyon, yr. treasurer  
 Ja. Duncan, hospital master  
 John Knox, J. Molison, yr.  
 Alex. Low, A. Baillie  
 Alex. Durie, mer. councillors  
 R. Dorrat, convr. } trades'  
 Robert Adam } councillors

#### 1752.

John Molison, provost  
 Edward Leslie } bailies  
 J. Molison, yr. }  
 John Lyon, elder, dean of guild  
 John Clark, treasurer  
 James Duncan, hospital master  
 David Molison, John Knox  
 Alex. Low, A. Baillie  
 Alex. Durie, mer. councillors  
 Da. Shireass, convr. } trades'  
 Robert Adam } councillors

1753, same as 1752.

#### 1754.

John Molison, provost

Edward Leslie } bailies  
 J. Molison, yr. }  
 J. Lyon, elder, dean of guild  
 John Clark, treasurer  
 James Duncan, hospital master  
 David Molison, Ja. Inverarity  
 Alex. Low, Alex. Baillie  
 Alex. Durie, mer. councillors  
 Geo. Reid, convr. } trades'  
 Robert Adam } councillors

#### 1755.

John Molison, provost  
 Edward Leslie } bailies  
 J. Molison, yr. }  
 John Lyon, elder, dean of guild  
 John Clark, treasurer  
 Ja. Inverarity, hospital master  
 James Duncan, David Molison  
 Alex. Low, Alex. Baillie  
 Alex. Durie, mer. councillors  
 Geo. Reid, convr. } trades'  
 Robert Adam } councillors

#### 1756.

John Molison, provost  
 Edward Leslie } bailies  
 J. Molison, yr. }  
 John Lyon, elder, dean of guild  
 John Clark, treasurer  
 James Inverarity, hospital master  
 James Duncan, David Molison  
 Alex. Low, Alex. Baillie  
 Alex. Durie, mer. councillors  
 A. Wishart, convr. } trades'  
 Robert Adam } councillors

#### 1757.

John Molison, provost  
 Edward Leslie } bailies  
 J. Molison, yr. }  
 David Molison, dean of guild  
 John Clark, treasurer  
 Ja. Inverarity, hospital master  
 John Lyon, elder, Ja. Duncan  
 Alex. Low, Alex. Baillie  
 Alex. Durie, mer. councillors  
 A. Wishart, convr. } trades'  
 Robert Adam } councillors

1758.

John Molison, provost  
 Edward Leslie } bailies  
 J. Molison, yr. }  
 David Molison, dean of guild  
 John Clark, treasurer  
 Ja. Inverarity, hospital master  
 David Shiress, James Duncan  
 Alex. Low, Alex. Baillie  
 Alex. Durie, mer. councillors  
 A. Wishart, convr. } trades'  
 Robert Adam } councillors

1759.

John Molison, provost  
 Edward Leslie } bailies  
 J. Molison, yr. }  
 David Molison, dean of guild  
 John Clark, treasurer  
 Ja. Inverarity, hospital master  
 David Shiress, James Duncan  
 Alex. Low, Alex. Baillie  
 Alex. Durie, mer. councillors  
 J. Millar, yr., convr. } trades'  
 Robert Adam } councillors

1760.

John Molison, provost  
 Edward Leslie } bailies  
 J. Molison, yr. }  
 David Molison, dean of guild  
 J. Clark, treasurer  
 Ja. Inverarity, hospital master  
 David Shiress, Ja. Duncan  
 Alex. Low, Alex. Baillie  
 Alex. Durie, mer. councillors  
 J. Millar, yr. convr. } trades'  
 Lauchlan Leslie } councillors

1761.

Same as last year.

1762.

John Molison, provost  
 Edward Leslie } bailies  
 David Molison }  
 J. Molison, yr. dean of guild  
 John Clark, treasurer  
 J. Inverarity, hospital master  
 David Shiress, Ja. Duncan  
 Alex. Low, Geo. Reid

Alex. Durie, mer. councillors  
 R. Langlands, convr. } trades'  
 Lauchlan Leslie } coun.

1763, 1764, same as 1762.

1765.

John Molison, provost  
 David Allardice } bailies  
 David Molison }  
 J. Molison, yr., dean of guild  
 Jn. Clark, treasurer  
 Ja. Inverarity, hospital master  
 David Shiress, Ja. Duncan  
 Alex. Low, Geo. Reid  
 Alex. Durie, mer. councillors  
 J. Millar, yr. convr. } trades'  
 Lauchlan Leslie } coun.

1766.

John Molison, yr. provost  
 David Allardice } bailies  
 David Molison }  
 Alexander Low, dean of guild  
 John Clark, treasurer  
 Ja. Inverarity, hospital master  
 John Molison, David Shiress  
 Ja. Duncan, Geo. Reid  
 Alex. Durie, mer. councillors  
 J. Millar, yr., convr. } trades'  
 Lauchlan Leslie } coun.

1767, same as 1766.

1768.

John Molison, yr. provost  
 David Allardice } bailies  
 David Molison }  
 Alexander Low, dean of guild  
 John Clark, treasurer  
 Ja. Inverarity, hospital master  
 John Molison, David Shiress  
 James Duncan, George Reid  
 Alex. Durie, mer. councillors  
 R. Langlands, convr. } trades'  
 Lauchlan Leslie } coun.

1769.

John Molison, yr. provost  
 David Allardice } bailies  
 David Molison }



Alex. Low, dean of guild  
 John Clark, treasurer  
 Ja. Inverarity, hospital master  
 John Gourlay, David Shiress  
 James Duncan, George Reid  
 Alex. Durie, mer. councillors  
 R. Langlands, convr. } trades'  
 Lachlan Lealie } councilrs

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1770.

John Molison, provost  
 David Allardice } bailies  
 David Molison }  
 Alex. Low, dean of guild  
 John Clark, treasurer  
 David Shiress, hospital master  
 John Mudie, William Cay  
 James Duncan, Geo. Reid  
 Alex. Durie, mer. councillors  
 R. Langlands, convr. } trades'  
 Lachlan Leslie } councilrs.

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1771.

John Molison, provost  
 D. Allardice, elder } bailies  
 John Clark }  
 Alex. Low, dean of guild  
 Alex. Durie, treasurer  
 David Shiress, hospital master  
 D. Allardice, yr. J. Duncan  
 John Mudie, Geo. Reid  
 Wm. Cay, merchant councillors  
 John Moug, convr. } trades'  
 Lachlan Leslie } councillors.

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1772, 1773, same as 1771.

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1774.

John Molison, provost  
 D. Allardice, elder } bailies  
 John Clark }  
 Alex. Low, dean of guild  
 John Mudie, treasurer  
 William Cay, hospital master  
 A. Durie, J. Duncan  
 D. Shiress, Geo. Reid  
 D. Allardice, yr. mer. coun.  
 A. Wishart, convr. } trades'  
 David Lyon } councillors

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1775.

John Molison, provost  
 D. Allardice, elder } bailies  
 John Clark }  
 Alex. Low, dean of guild  
 John Mudie, treasurer  
 William Cay, hospital master  
 A. Durie J. Duncan  
 D. Shiress, Geo. Reid  
 D. Allardice, yr., mer. council.  
 A. Mitchell, convr. } trades'  
 David Lyon } councilrs.

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1776.

John Molison, provost  
 D. Allardice, elder } bailies  
 John Clark }  
 Alex. Low, dean of guild  
 John Mudie, treasurer  
 William Cay, hospital master  
 A. Durie, J. Duncan  
 D. Shiress, Geo. Reid  
 D. Allardice, yr., mer. council.  
 A. Mitchell, convr. } trades'  
 Lauchlan Leslie } councilrs.

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1777.

John Molison, provost  
 D. Allardice, elder } bailies  
 John Clark }  
 Alex. Low, dean of guild  
 John Mudie, treasurer  
 William Cay, hospital master  
 A. Durie, J. Duncan  
 D. Shiress, Geo. Reid  
 D. Allardice, yr., mer. council.  
 Colin Smith, convr. } trades'  
 Lauchlan Leslie } coun.

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1778, same as 1777.

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1779.

John Molison, provost  
 D. Allardice, elder } bailies  
 John Clark }  
 Alex. Low, dean of guild  
 John Mudie, treasurer  
 William Cay, hospital master  
 A. Durie, A. Durie, yr.  
 D. Shiress, Geo. Reid  
 D. Allardice, yr., mer. council.

Colin Smith, convr. } trades'  
 Lauchlan Leslie } councillors

1780.

John Molison, provost  
 D. Allardice, elder } bailies  
 John Clark }  
 Alex. Low, dean of guild  
 John Mudie, treasurer  
 William Cay, hospital master  
 A. Durie, A. Durie, yr.  
 David Shiress, Geo. Reid  
 D. Allardice, yr., mer. council.  
 J. Millar, elder, convr. } trades'  
 Lauchlan Leslie } councils

1781, 1782, same as 1780.

1783.

John Molison, provost  
 D. Allardice, elder } bailies  
 John Clark }  
 A. Durie, elder, dean of guild  
 John Mudie, treasurer  
 William Cay, hospital master  
 D. Guthrie, A. Durie, yr.  
 D. Shiress Geo. Reid  
 D. Allardice, yr. mer. concncls.  
 Colin Smith, convr. } trades'  
 Lauchlan Leslie } councillors

1784.

John Molison, provost  
 John Clark, } bailies  
 John Smith, elder }  
 A. Durie, elder, dean of guild  
 John Mudie, treasurer  
 William Cay, hospital master  
 D. Guthrie, A. Durie, yr.  
 D. Shiress, G. Reid  
 D. Allardice, yr. mer. councils.  
 Colin Smith, convr. } trades'  
 Lauchlan Leslie } councillors.

1785, same as 1784.

1786.

John Molison, provost  
 John Clark } bailies  
 John Smith }  
 A. Durie, dean of guild

John Mudie, treasurer  
 William Cay, hospital master  
 D. Guthrie, A. Durie, yr.  
 D. Shiress, Geo. Reid  
 D. Allardice, mer. councillors.  
 J. Soutter, convr. } trades'  
 Lauchlan Leslie } councillors

1787, same as 1786.

1788.

John Molison, provost  
 John Smith } bailies  
 William Cay }  
 A. Durie, elder, dean of guild  
 David Guthrie, treasurer  
 James Smith, hospital master  
 Thos. Molison, A. Durie, yr.  
 D. Shiress, Geo. Reid  
 D. Allardice, mer. councils.  
 Geo. Millar, convr. } trades'  
 Lauchlan Leslie } councillors

1789.

John Smith, provost  
 William Cay } bailies  
 Thos. Molison }  
 A. Durie, elder, dean of guild  
 David Guthrie, treasurer  
 James Smith, hospital master  
 C. Gilles, A. Durie, yr.  
 D. Shiress, Geo. Reid  
 D. Allardice, mer. councils.  
 Geo. Millar, convr. } trades'  
 Lauchlan Leslie } councillors

1790.

John Smith, provost  
 William Cay } bailies  
 Thos. Molison }  
 A. Durie, elder, dean of guild  
 David Guthrie, treasurer  
 James Smith, hospital master  
 C. Gilles, A. Durie, yr.  
 D. Shiress, Geo. Reid  
 Alex. Mitchell, mer. councillors  
 Geo. Millar, convr. } trades'  
 Lauchlan Leslie } councillors

1791.

John Smith, provost

William Cay } bailies  
 Thomas Molison }  
 A. Durie, elder, dean of guild  
 David Guthrie, treasurer  
 James Smith, hospital master  
 C. Gillies, A. Durie, yr.  
 D. Shiress, Geo. Reid  
 Alex. Mitchell, mer. councillors  
 Chas. Belford, convr. } trades'  
 Lauchlan Leslie } coun.

1792.

John Smith, provost  
 William Cay } bailies  
 Thos. Molison }  
 A. Durie, yr. dean of guild  
 David Guthrie, treasurer  
 Ja. Smith, hospital master  
 A. Durie, elder, A. Mitchell  
 C. Gillies, Geo. Reid  
 D. Shiress, merchant councillors  
 C. Belford, convr. } trades'  
 Lauchlan Leslie } councillors

1793, same as 1792.

1794.

John Smith, provost  
 William Cay } bailies  
 Thos. Molison }  
 A. Durie, yr. dean of guild  
 David Guthrie, treasurer  
 Ja. Smith, hospital master  
 A. Durie, elder, A. Mitchell  
 C. Gillies, Geo. Reid  
 Ja. Reid, merchant councillors  
 R. Millar, convr. } trades'  
 Lauchlan Leslie } councillors

1795.

John Smith, provost  
 William Cay } bailies  
 Thos. Molison }  
 A. Durie, yr. dean of guild  
 David Guthrie, treasurer  
 Ja. Smith, hospital master  
 A. Durie, elder, A. Mitchell  
 C. Gillies, Geo. Reid  
 Ja. Reid, merchant councillors  
 R. Millar, convr. } trades'  
 James Leslie } councillors

1796, same as 1795.

1797.

John Smith, provost  
 William Cay } bailies  
 Thos. Molison }  
 A. Durie, dean of guild  
 David Guthrie, treasurer  
 James Smith, hospital master  
 William Shiress, A. Mitchell  
 C. Gillies, Geo. Reid  
 Ja. Reid, merchant councillors  
 H. Millar, yr., convr. } trades'  
 James Leslie } coun.

1798, same as 1797.

1799.

John Smith, provost  
 Thos. Molison } bailies  
 David Guthrie }  
 A. Durie, dean of guild  
 James Smith, treasurer  
 Alex. Mitchell, hospital master  
 David Don, J. Reid  
 W. Shiress, Geo. Reid  
 C. Gillies, merchant councillors  
 H. Millar, convr. } trades'  
 James Leslie } councillors

1800.

Thomas Molison, provost  
 David Guthrie } bailies  
 James Smith }  
 A. Durie, dean of guild  
 A. Mitchell, treasurer  
 James Reid, hospital master  
 David Don, C. Gillies  
 Ja. Watson, Geo. Reid  
 Wm. Shiress, mer. councillors  
 R. Millar, convr. } trades'  
 Ja. Leslie } councillors

1801, 1802, same as 1800.

1803.

Thomas Molison, provost  
 David Guthrie } bailies  
 Alex. Mitchell }  
 A. Durie, dean of guild  
 David Don, treasurer

James Reid, hospital master  
 James Smith, C. Gillies  
 J. Watson, Geo. Reid  
 Wm. Shiress, mer. councillors  
 Da. Mitchell, convr. } trades'  
 James Leslie } coun.

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1804.

Thomas Molison, provost  
 David Guthrie } bailies  
 Alex. Mitchell }  
 A. Durie, dean of guild  
 David Don, treasurer  
 James Reid, hospital master  
 J. Smith, C. Gillies  
 J. Watson, Jo. Martin  
 W. Shiress, merchant councillors  
 D. Mitchell, convr. } trades'  
 James Leslie } councillors

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1805, same as 1804.

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1806.

Thomas Molison, provost  
 D. Guthrie } bailies  
 Alex. Mitchell }  
 A. Durie, dean of guild  
 David Don, treasurer  
 James Reid, hospital master  
 J. Smith, C. Gillies  
 J. Watson, John Martin  
 W. Shiress, merchant councillors  
 D. Shiress, convr. } trades'  
 James Leslie } councillors

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1807, 1808, same as 1806.

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1809.

Thomas Molison, provost  
 D. Guthrie } bailies  
 Alex. Mitchell }  
 A. Durie, dean of guild  
 David Don, treasurer  
 J. Reid, hospital master  
 J. Smith, C. Gillies  
 J. Watson, Jo. Martin  
 W. Shiress, mer. councillors  
 D. Mitchell, convr. } trades'  
 James Leslie } councillors

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1810, 1811, same as 1809.

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1812.

Thomas Molison, provost  
 D. Guthrie } bailies  
 A. Mitchell }  
 A. Durie, dean of guild  
 David Don, treasurer  
 James Reid, hospital master  
 Jo. Guthrie, C. Gillies  
 J. Watson, Jo. Martin  
 W. Shiress, mer. councillors  
 G. Fotheringham, convr. } trades'  
 James Leslie } coun.

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1813.

Thomas Molison, provost  
 Dav. Guthrie } bailies  
 Alex. Mitchell }  
 David Don, dean of guild  
 John Guthrie, treasurer  
 James Reid, hospital master  
 A. Durie, C. Gillies  
 J. Watson, Jo. Martin  
 W. Shiress, mer. councillors  
 D. Mitchell, convr. } trades'  
 James Leslie } councillors

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1814.

Thomas Molison, provost  
 David Guthrie } bailies  
 Alex. Mitchell }  
 David Don, dean of guild  
 John Guthrie, treasurer  
 James Reid, hospital master  
 A. Durie, yr., C. Gillies  
 J. Watson, Jo. Martin  
 W. Shiress, mer. councillors  
 G. Fotheringham, convr. } trades'  
 James Leslie } coun.

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1815.

David Guthrie, provost  
 Alex. Mitchell } bailies  
 David Don }  
 Colin Gillies, dean of guild  
 John Guthrie, treasurer  
 James Speid, hospital master  
 James Reid, W. Shiress  
 A. Durie, yr. Jo. Martin  
 J. Watson, mer. councillors  
 G. Fotheringham, convr. } trades'  
 James Leslie } coun.

1816.

David Guthrie, provost  
 A. Mitchell } bailies  
 David Don }  
 Colin Gillies, dean of guild  
 John Guthrie, treasurer  
 James Speid, hospital master  
 James Reid, W. Shireess  
 D. Guthrie, yr., Jo. Martin  
 J. Watson, merchant councilrs.  
 D. Mitchell, convr. } trades'  
 James Leslie } councillors

1817, same as 1816.

1818.

David Guthrie, provost  
 David Don } bailies  
 James Speid }  
 Colin Gillies, dean of guild  
 John Guthrie, treasurer  
 Jo. Martin, hospital master  
 A. Mitchell, J. Watson  
 J. Reid, W. Shireess  
 D. Guthrie, yr., mer. councils.  
 D. Mitchell, convr. } trades'  
 James Leslie } councillors

1819.

David Guthrie, provost  
 James Speid } bailies  
 David Reid }  
 Colin Gillies, dean of guild  
 John Guthrie, treasurer  
 John Martin, hospital master  
 A. Mitchell, John Smith  
 David Don, Ja. Reid  
 D. Guthrie, yr. mer. councils.  
 J. Mathers, convr. } trades'  
 James Leslie } councillors

1820.

Colin Gillies, provost  
 James Speid } bailies  
 John Guthrie }  
 William Baillie, dean of guild  
 David Guthrie, treasurer  
 John Smith, hospital master  
 J. Martin, J. Pennycook  
 Alex. Guthrie, William Robb  
 Charles Fettes

John Mathers, deacon convener  
 David Shireess, trades' councillor

1821, same as 1820.

1822.

Colin Gillies, provost  
 James Speid } bailies  
 John Guthrie }  
 Colin Rickard, dean of guild  
 David Guthrie, treasurer  
 John Smith, hospital master  
 John Martin, Alex. Guthrie  
 J. Pennycook, William Robb  
 Charles Fettes  
 James Low, deacon convener  
 William Grim, trades' councillor

1823.

James Speid, provost  
 John Guthrie } bailies  
 Alex. Mitchell }  
 Colin Rickard, dean of guild  
 David Guthrie, treasurer  
 John Smith, hospital master  
 Jo. Martin, Alexr. Guthrie  
 J. Pennycook, William Robb  
 Charles Fettes  
 James Low, deacon convener  
 William Grim, trades' councilr.

1824.

James Speid, provost  
 Jo. Guthrie } bailies  
 Alex. Mitchell }  
 David M'Kenzie, dean of guild  
 David Guthrie, treasurer  
 John Smith, hospital master  
 Jo. Martin, Alexander Guthrie  
 J. Pennycook, William Robb  
 Charles Fettes  
 James Low, deacon convener  
 Robt. Craig, trades' councillor

1825.

James Speid, provost  
 John Guthrie } bailies  
 A. Mitchell }  
 D. M'Kenzie, dean of guild  
 David Guthrie, treasurer

John Smith, hospital master  
 John Martin, Charles Fettes  
 David Ogilvy, David Dakers  
 Alexander Guthrie  
 Ja. Ramsay, jr. deacon convr.  
 Robt. Craig, trades' councillor

1826.

James Speid, provost  
 John Guthrie } bailies  
 David Ogilvy }  
 Alex. M'Kinlay, dean of guild  
 David Guthrie, treasurer  
 John Smith, hospital master  
 A. Mitchell  
 Jo. Martin, Alexr. Guthrie,  
 Chas. Fettes, David Dakers  
 James Ramsay, jr. deacon convr.  
 John Mathers, trades' councilrs.

1827, same as 1826.

1828.

James Speid, provost  
 David Ogilvy } bailies  
 David Guthrie }  
 Ja. Watson, jun., dean of guild  
 Alex. M'Kinlay, treasurer  
 Jo. Smith, hospital master  
 Alexr. Mitchell, John Martin  
 Alexr. Guthrie, Charles Fettes  
 James Douglas  
 James Low, deacon convener  
 Alex. Craig, trades' councillor

1829.

James Speid, provost  
 David Ogilvy } bailies  
 David Guthrie }  
 Ja. Watson, jr. dean of guild  
 Alex. M'Kinlay, treasurer  
 Jo. Smith, hospital master  
 Alexander Mitchell,  
 John Martin, Alexr. Guthrie  
 Charles Fettes  
 James Douglas  
 James Low, deacon convener  
 John Todd, trades' councillor

8th July, 1830.

David Shepherd, councillor, vice

Mitchell, deceased.

Michaelmas, 1830.

James Speid, provost  
 David Guthrie } bailies  
 John Smith }  
 David Dakers, dean of guild  
 Alex. M'Kinlay, treasurer  
 Alex. Guthrie, hospital master  
 John Martin, Charles Fettes  
 Ja. Douglas, D. Shepherd  
 J. Watson, jun.  
 William Grim, deacon convener  
 John Todd, trades' councillor

29th April, 1831.

Alexander Black, councillor, vice  
 Fettes, deceased.

Michaelmas, 1831.

James Speid, provost  
 David Guthrie } bailies  
 John Smith }  
 David Dakers, dean of guild  
 Alex. M'Kinlay, treasurer  
 Alex. Guthrie, hospital master  
 John Martin, James Douglas  
 Da. Shepherd, J. Watson, jun.,  
 Alexander Black  
 Wm. Grim, deacon convener  
 Ja. Belford, trades' councillor

1832.

James Speid, provost  
 David Guthrie } bailies  
 John Smith }  
 David Lamb, dean of guild  
 Alex. M'Kinlay, treasurer  
 Alex. Guthrie, hospital master  
 John Martin, James Douglas  
 Da. Shepherd, J. Watson, jun.  
 Alexander Black  
 Wm. Grim, deacon convener  
 Ja. Belford, trades' councillor

November 1833.

James Speid, provost  
 David Dakers } bailies  
 Wm. Sharpe }  
 Thos. Ogilvy, dean of guild  
 James Millar, treasurer  
 R. M'Kenzie, hospital master

David Guthrie, James Laing  
Wm. Shireass, David Lamb  
Alexr. Guthrie, David Craig  
Alexander Mather

1834.

James Speid, provost  
David Dakers } bailies  
Wm. Sharpe }  
Thomas Ogilvy, dean of guild  
James Millar, treasurer  
Robt. M'Kenzie, hospital master  
David Guthrie, James Laing  
Wm. Shireass, David Lamb  
Alexr. Guthrie, David Craig  
James Baxter

1835.

James Speid, provost  
David Guthrie } bailies  
Wm. Sharpe }  
David Lamb, dean of guild  
James Millar, treasurer  
Robt. M'Kenzie, hospital master  
James Laing,  
Alexander Guthrie, David Craig  
James Baxter, William Gordon  
David Mitchell, Robert Don

6th June, 1836.

James Hood, John Speid, coun-  
cillors, vice James Speid and  
James Laing. David Guthrie  
provost.

13th June.

David Lamb, senior bailie

20th June.

James Baxter, dean of guild

November 1836.

David Guthrie, provost

David Lamb } bailies  
Wm. Sharpe }  
James Baxter, dean of guild  
James Millar, treasurer  
R. M'Kenzie, hospital master  
Alex. Guthrie, David Craig  
Wm. Gordon, David Mitchell  
Robert Don, James Hood  
John Speid

8th May, 1837.

Robert Welsh, David Guthrie,  
junior, councillors, vice David  
Lamb and William Sharpe  
James Millar } bailies  
Robert Welsh }

13th May.

David Craig, treasurer

November 1837.

David Guthrie, provost  
James Millar } bailies  
Robert Welsh }  
James Baxter, dean of guild  
David Craig, treasurer  
Alex. Guthrie, hospital master  
William Gordon  
David Mitchell, Robert Don  
James Hood, John Speid  
David Guthrie, jr. Alex. Mather

1838.

David Guthrie, provost  
James Millar } bailies  
Robert Welsh }  
Jas. Baxter, dean of guild  
David Craig, treasurer  
Alex. Guthrie, hospital master  
Ja. Hood, John Speid,  
D. Guthrie, jr. Wm. Duncan  
David Mitchell, Robert Don  
William Gordon.

# **METEOROLOGICAL TABLES**

**PREPARED FROM JOURNAL KEPT AT THE**

**DEN NURSERY, BRECHIN,**

**204 FEET ABOVE THE LEVEL OF THE SEA.**



1830.	No. of Days Dur- ing which the Wind was,			No. of days Rain or Snow.	Average Heat at Mid-day.	Degrees Heat on Warmest Days.	Average Cold at Sunrise.	Degrees Cold on Coldest Day.	Average of the Barometer.	Greatest Height of Barometer;	And when.	Greatest Depres- sion of Barom.	And when.
	N.	S.	E.	W.									
Jan.	9	4	7	11	32	41	29½	24	29.34	30.40	1st.	29.50	21st.
Feb.	4	6	6	12	42	52	37½	25	29.53	30.10	15th.	28.72	8th.
Mar.	3	4	0	24	47	65	39½	24	29.63	30.20	27th.	28.94	15th.
April	3	4	4	19	54	74	30th.	20	29.25	29.92	28th.	28.82	24th.
May	3	5	12	11	57	66	23d.	40	29.60	29.86	14th.	29.02	26th.
June	12	2	5	11	57	70	9th.	47	29.55	29.85	16th.	29.02	26th.
July	3	6	14	8	65	84	28th.	50	29.59	30.12	28th.	29.05	8th.
Aug.	12	5	5	9	59	68	3d.	50	29.53	29.98	18th.	29.10	12th.
Sep.	5	8	5	12	57	66	1st.	46	29.38	29.84	1st.	28.80	20th.
Oct.	7	3	1	20	55	66	9th.	32	29.83	30.20	10th.	29.10	28th.
Nov.	5	14	3	8	46½	56	3d.	40	29.41	30.10	24th.	28.70	16th.
Dec.	13	7	8	3	35	45	21st.	15	29.29	30.05	15th.	28.75	22d.
	79	68	70	148	52	84	28 Jul	15	29.49	30.40	1 Jan	28.70	16 No.

1831.	No. of Days during which the Wind was.				No. of days Rain or Snow.	Average Heat at Mid-day.	Degrees Heat on warmest Days.	Average Cold at Sunrise.	Degrees Cold on Coldest Day.		Average of the Barometer.	Greatest Height of Barometer.		And when.	Greatest Depression of Barom.	And when.
	N.	S.	E.	W.					Degrees Cold	on Coldest Day.		Greatest Height of Barometer.	And when.			
Jan.	7	3	7	14	11	36	46	33	24	30th.	29.46	30.00	6th.	29.00	1st.	1st.
Feb.	5	2	6	15	13	42	52	36	25	6th.	29.25	29.87	22d.	28.55	7th.	7th.
Mar.	0	4	7	20	10	48	63	39	32	2d.	29.32	30.15	31st.	28.42	12th.	12th.
April	3	10	9	8	14	54	70	43	32	4th.	29.34	30.18	1st.	28.80	8th.	8th.
May	6	4	15	6	6	60	74	48	30	6th.	29.44	29.72	23d.	28.90	1st.	1st.
June	9	9	6	6	9	64	75	55	50	5th.	29.34	29.63	3d.	28.93	11th.	11th.
July	4	6	4	17	11	70	80	59	55	14th.	29.35	29.70	6th.	28.92	21st.	21st.
Aug.	5	10	2	14	8	69	81	56	48	31st.	29.37	29.70	21st.	29.00	26th.	26th.
Sep.	3	12	3	12	17	60	66	50	44	28th.	29.37	29.64	11th.	29.10	30th.	30th.
Oct.	0	6	2	23	16	58	66	50	38	28th.	29.13	29.60	18th.	28.68	20th.	20th.
Nov.	5	3	1	21	11	42	64	37	27	20th.	29.18	20.80	27th.	28.48	7th.	7th.
Dec.	2	6	1	22	11	43	50	38	28	30th.	29.09	29.90	28th.	28.24	7th.	7th.
	49	75	63	178	137	54	81	45	24	30th.	29.30	30.18	1st.	28.24	7th.	7th.

1832.	No. of days during which the wind was,				No. of days Rain or Snow.	Average Heat at Mid-day.	Degrees Heat on Warmest Days.	Average Cold at Source.	Degrees Cold as Coldest Day.		Average of the Barometer.	Greatest Height of Barometer.	And when.	Greatest Depression of Barom.	And when.
	N.	S.	E.	W.					Degrees Cold	Coldest Day.					
Jan.	2	10	0	19	8	40	48	38	24	6th.	29.35	29.72	14th.	29.02	9th.
Feb.	0	4	2	23	3	41.4	50	36.4	32	21st.	29.39	29.88	10th.	28.46	2d.
Mar.	5	4	0	22	7	45	56	37	30	8th.	29.19	29.61	1st.	28.49	17th.
Apr.	6	12	5	7	11	54	66	39	30	1st.	29.45	29.85	6th.	29.00	20th.
May	7	5	11	8	6	59.4	70	42	31	5th.	29.42	29.78	9th.	28.85	31st.
June	1	3	15	11	14	62.4	72	50	45	1st.	29.26	29.70	29th.	28.88	23d.
July	7	1	6	17	4	63	70	49.4	40	22d.	29.46	29.75	29th.	29.10	9th.
Aug.	2	8	3	18	15	63.4	71	50	39	27th.	29.27	29.55	1st.	28.90	28th.
Sept.	2	1	2	25	10	63.4	72	48	42	10th.	29.40	29.80	21st.	28.98	10th.
Oct.	0	10	2	19	11	55	63	43	36	5th.	29.32	29.90	21st.	28.30	7th.
Nov.	5	13	1	11	11	43.4	50	37	30	4th.	29.24	29.80	6th.	28.45	28th.
Dec.	2	6	2	21	8	41	50	35	26	20th.	29.25	29.62	9th.	28.45	2d.
	39	77	49	201	108	52.4	72	42	24	6th.	29.33	29.90	21st.	28.30	7th.

1833.	No. of days during which the wind was,				No. of days Rain or Snow.	Average Heat at Mid-day.	Degrees Heat on warmest Days.	Average Cold at Sunrise.	Degrees Cold on Coldest Day.	Average of the Barometer	Greatest Height of Barometer.	And when.	Greatest Depression of Barom.	And when.
	N.	S.	E.	W.										
Jan.	4	2	4	21	0	36	42	27th.	24	29.59	30.00	8th.	29.00	29th.
Feb.	1	3	9	15	16	41	54	16th.	30	28.90	29.60	22d.	28.32	10th.
Mar.	7	3	12	9	14	41	48	6th.	30	29.40	29.80	8th.	28.60	1st.
Apr.	6	1	10	13	20					29.20	29.60	25th.	28.52	11th.
May	2	9	6	14	7					29.42	29.75	23d.	28.78	3d.
June	8	9	7	6	16					29.44	29.78	9th.	29.05	11th.
July	6	3	1	21	11					29.66	30.15	30th.	29.20	22d.
Aug.	5	1	2	23	12					29.64	30.10	1st.	29.09	22d.
Sept.	0	8	9	13	10					29.65	30.00	6th.	28.95	24th.
Oct.	4	6	9	12	8					29.50	30.00	5th.	28.75	15th.
Nov.	6	7	3	14	11					29.43	29.92	14th.	28.46	29th.
Dec.	6	2	2	21	11					29.22	29.75	25th.	28.50	20th.
	55	54	74	182	136					29.42	30.15	30jul	28.92	10re

1834.	No. of Days during which the Wind was,				No. of days Rain or Snow.	Average Heat at Mid-day.	Degrees Heat on warmest Days.	Average Cold at Sunrise.	Degrees Cold on Coldest Day.	Average of the Barometer.	Greatest Height of Barometer; And when.	Greatest Depression of Barom. And when.
	N.	S.	E.	W.								
Jan.	1	2	6	22	17	40	48	32	30	29.31	29.96	28.80
Feb.	1	3	1	23	11	43	51	35	30	29.66	30.05	29.30
Mar.	3	0	6	22	11	48	60	38	29	29.73	30.22	29.00
April	4	3	12	11	4	52	62	41	35	30.10	30.18	29.35
May	0	5	7	19	10	61	70	49	40	29.71	30.23	29.00
June	4	7	0	19	15	62	70	51	50	29.62	30.10	29.15
July	0	11	9	11	11	66	83	55	50	29.74	30.10	29.40
Aug.	4	8	3	16	5	64	75	54	50	29.60	29.90	29.25
Sep.	7	5	3	15	8	60	70	50	38	29.76	30.12	29.30
Oct.	9	4	0	18	9	53	67	44	32	29.65	30.20	28.65
Nov.	3	2	4	21	11	46	58	38	28	29.63	30.15	28.65
Dec.	11	4	3	13	6	44	56	38	24	29.89	30.34	28.60
	47	54	54	210	118	53	83	44	24	29.70	30.34	28.61
								16dec	1dec			

1835.	No. of Days during which the Wind was,			No. of days Rain or Snow.	Average Heat at Mid-day.	Degrees Heat on Warmest Days.	Average Cold at Sunrise.	Degrees Cold on Coldest Day.	Average of the Barometer.	Greatest Height of Barometer.	And when.	Greatest Depression of Barom.	And when.
	N.	S.	E. W.										
Jan.	6	3	2	20	39	50	32	23	29.66	30.30	3d.	28.85	16th.
Feb.	4	9	2	13	38	56	34	30	29.26	29.90	10th.	28.20	23d.
Mar.	9	3	3	16					29.59	30.20	26th.	28.80	5th.
Apr.	10	0	6	14					29.78	30.05	23d.	29.40	1st.
May	6	10	6	9					29.59	29.90	30th.	29.20	25th.
June	9	2	15	4					29.75	30.10	Sev.	29.05	22d.
July	1	1	1	27					29.67	30.05	22d.	29.20	10th.
Aug.	4	7	6	14					29.63	30.00	8th.	29.35	22d.
Sept.	0	13	5	12					29.35	29.72	6th.	28.90	28th.
Oct.	7	4	5	15					29.44	30.00	15th.	28.45	28th.
Nov.	6	8	5	11					29.61	30.20	10th.	28.90	30th.
Dec.	3	0	9	19					29.81	30.18	22d.	28.95	1st.
	65	61	65	174	98				29.59	30.30	3 Jan	28.20	23 Feb

**TABLE OF PETTY CUSTOMS,  
Payable in Brechin, Regulated 1809.**

	d.		d.
Corn and meal, per boll . . .	0½	Each Pound of bees' wax . . .	0½
Potatoes, 30 stones, dutch . . .	1	Cart load of fruit . . .	3
Load of meal sold in M.L. Mkt. 2		Each load of berries . . .	2
Wool, butter, cheese, feathers and home lint, per stone 1½		Horse load of caps or wooden ware . . .	2
Horns linsed, each peck . . .	0½	Chapman's pack on horse- back . . .	2
Lime or delfware, per cart load 3		Do. . . Back burden . . .	1
Peats or wood . . . do. 1		New bed, press. or weaver's loom . . .	2
Each goose or turkey . . .	0½	Barrel of ale, 20 pints . . .	0½
Hens or ducks, each pair . . .	0½	Anker of whisky . . .	2
Chickens or pigeons do. . .	0½	Boll of malt, sold by unfree- men . . .	2
Muir fowl . . . do. 1		Two gallons of milk . . .	0½
Each Stand with Sieves, &c. 1		Boll of rye grass seed . . .	1
Each horse load of partons or lobsters . . .	1	Stone of cut barley . . .	0½
Back burden of do. . .	0½	Each shoe stand . . .	1
Horse load of white fish . . .	1	Stand with pictures, &c. . .	6
Cart load of do. or Salmon 2		Cart load of sea sand . . .	1
Cart load of dried fish . . .	3	Each auctioneer . . .	12
Horse load of do. . .	1½	Each stage erected on the street for tumbling or rope dan- cing . . .	2 6
Back burden of do. . .	0½	Each Caravan, per day . . .	2 6
Each piece of plaiding or wol- len stuff of 20 yards . . .	1	<i>Rates to be paid at Head Mar- kets and Fairs.</i>	
Each horse load of kittywaaks 2		Each sheep . . .	0½
Ox or cow's hide, unfreemen 1		Each horse, ox, cow or stirk . . .	2
Horse or stirk's skin . . .	1	Each tent stance in muir . . .	12
Dozen of sheep, lamb or hares' skins . . .	1	Each merchant's stand at the Great Fair, according to the value, not exceeding 6d. and not under a ½d. besides the gate penny. . .	6
Each hare . . .	0½	Each lying Stand with cloth, not exceeding 6d., and so for lesser . . .	6
Each cart load of hay . . .	2	Each huckster's stand, not ex- ceeding, and proportionally for lesser . . .	3
Straw . . .	1	Each Stand with books, cop- per or iron work . . .	3
Broom . . .	0½		
Each horse load of dressed leather . . .	6		
Each do. of stockings . . .	3		
Back load of do. . .	1		
Each dozen of eggs . . .	0½		
Web of linen or harren . . .	1		
Each sple. yarn, linen or wool- len on Palm, Trinky & Lam- mas Tuesday, and the two Tuesdays after Martinmas 0½			
Each pint of honey . . .	1		
Stone of tallow . . .	1		

**SHAMBLES AND WEIGH-HOUSE DUES.**

Each ox or cow slaughtered for sale . . .	8	Each swine, slaughtered for sale . . .	4
Each sheep, lamb and calf, slaughtered for sale . . .	1½	Each stone of wool, weighing 4 . . .	4
Each stone of butter, do. . .	3		

"All goods not described in the above, to pay in proportion with  
the table."

TABLE of the WAGES of the LABOURING CLASSES in the PARISH of BRECHIN,  
on Averages of Ten Years from 1780 to 1837, inclusive, with instances in Good and Bad  
Seasons; constructed by David Leighton, Esq. of Bearhill, from information collected by  
the Committee on the State of the Poor, 1838.

YEARS.	Masons per Day.	Wrights per Day.	Labourers per Day.	Shoemakers per Week.	Ploughmen per Year.	Women in the House per annum.	Men for Harvest.	Women for Harvest.	Spinning per Spindle.
1780	1 5s	0 9s	0 9s	s. d.	£6 10	£3 15	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1790	1 9s	1 3s	1 3s	" 7 0	£8 to 10	£4 to 5	25 to 35	25	0 11
1800	2 8s	1 11s	1 7s	10 6	£10 to 24	£5 to 6	40 to 60	30 to 50	1 6
1810	2 9s	2 6s	1 9s	9 0	£14 to 20	£6 to 7	40 to 60	30 to 50	1 1
1820	2 8s	2 1s	1 8s	9 0	£8 to 14	£5 to 6	35 to 50	30 to 40	0 11
1830	2 7s	2 0s	1 8s	9 0	£9 to 15	£7 to 10	4p shreave 4p do.	4p shreave 4p do.	0 8s
Good { 1798	2 0s	1 4s	1 1s	8 9					
Crops { 1822	2 9s	2 0s	1 8s	8 9					
Bad { 1800	2 2s	1 8s	1 1s	8 9					
Crops { 1826	2 3s	2 0s	1 10s	10					



**TABLE of the FIARS PRICES of OATMEAL in the COUNTY of FORFAR, compared with the WAGES of LABOUR in the PARISH of BRECHIN, on Averages of periods of ten years, from 1780 to 1837, inclusive, with instances of good and bad crops, constructed by David Leighton, Esq. of Bearhill, from Tables of Fiars Prices framed by the late Mr. David Dakers of Brechin, and information as to Wages, gathered from various sources by the Committee appointed to examine into and report on the state of the Poor in Brechin parish, 1838.**

YEARS.		Boll of Oatmeal.		EQUAL TO DAYS WAGES OF		
				Masons.	Wrights.	Labourers.
		s.	d.			
1780	1789	14	0 ?	9.401	17.309	17.210
1790	1799	17	4 ?	9.568	13.506	13.444
1800	1809	23	5 ?	8.551	12.144	14.289
1810	1819	22	5 1/2	8.179	8.866	12.622
1820	1829	17	10 1/2	6.532	8.539	10.332
1830	1837	16	2 ?	6.266	7.957	9.614
Good	1798	15	2.3	7.606	11.422	10.852
Crops	1822	14	3	5.181	7.125	8.55
Bad	1800	43	0	19.846	28.666	36.857
Crops	1826	27	5	12.185	12.185	14.954

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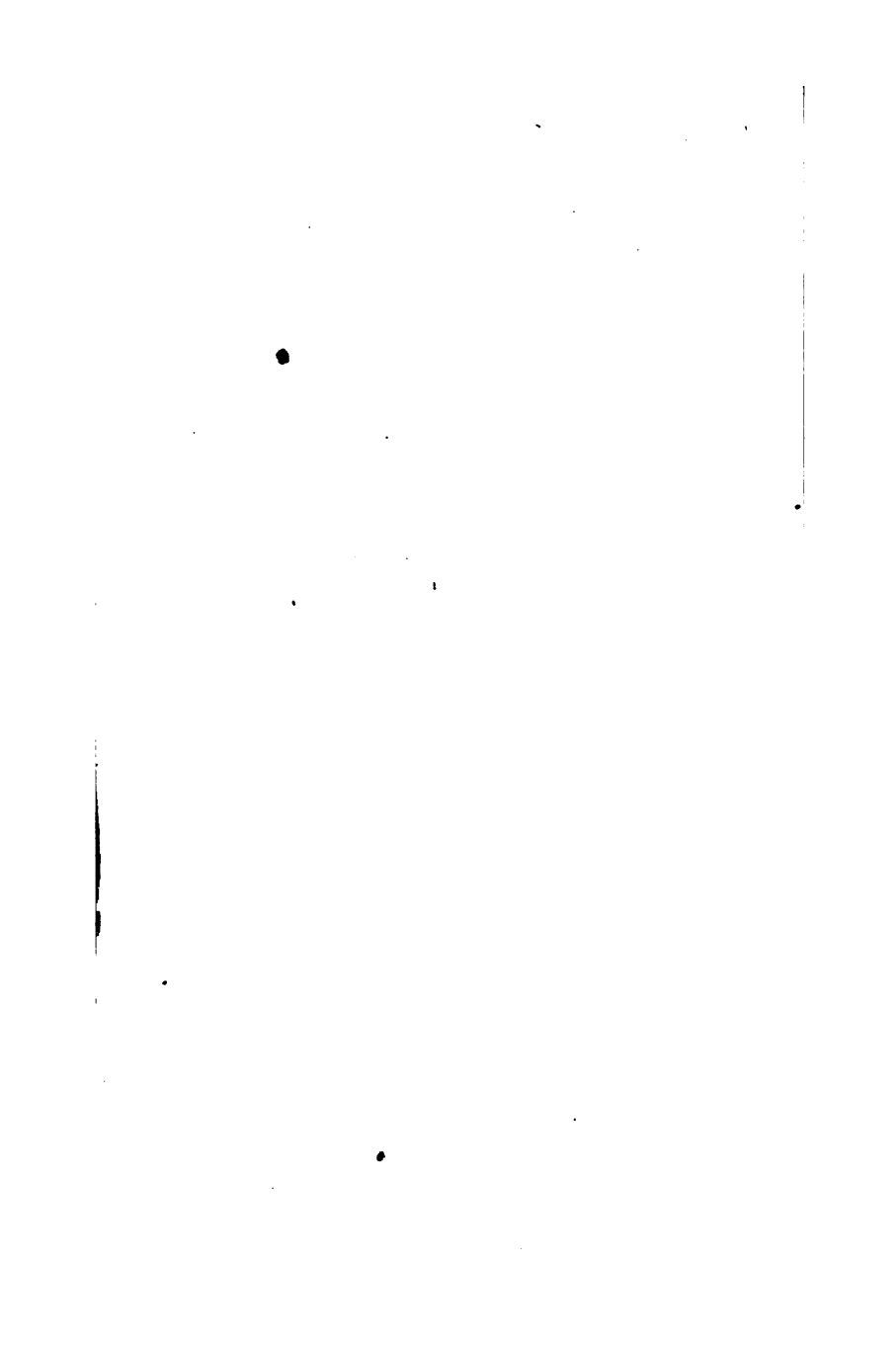
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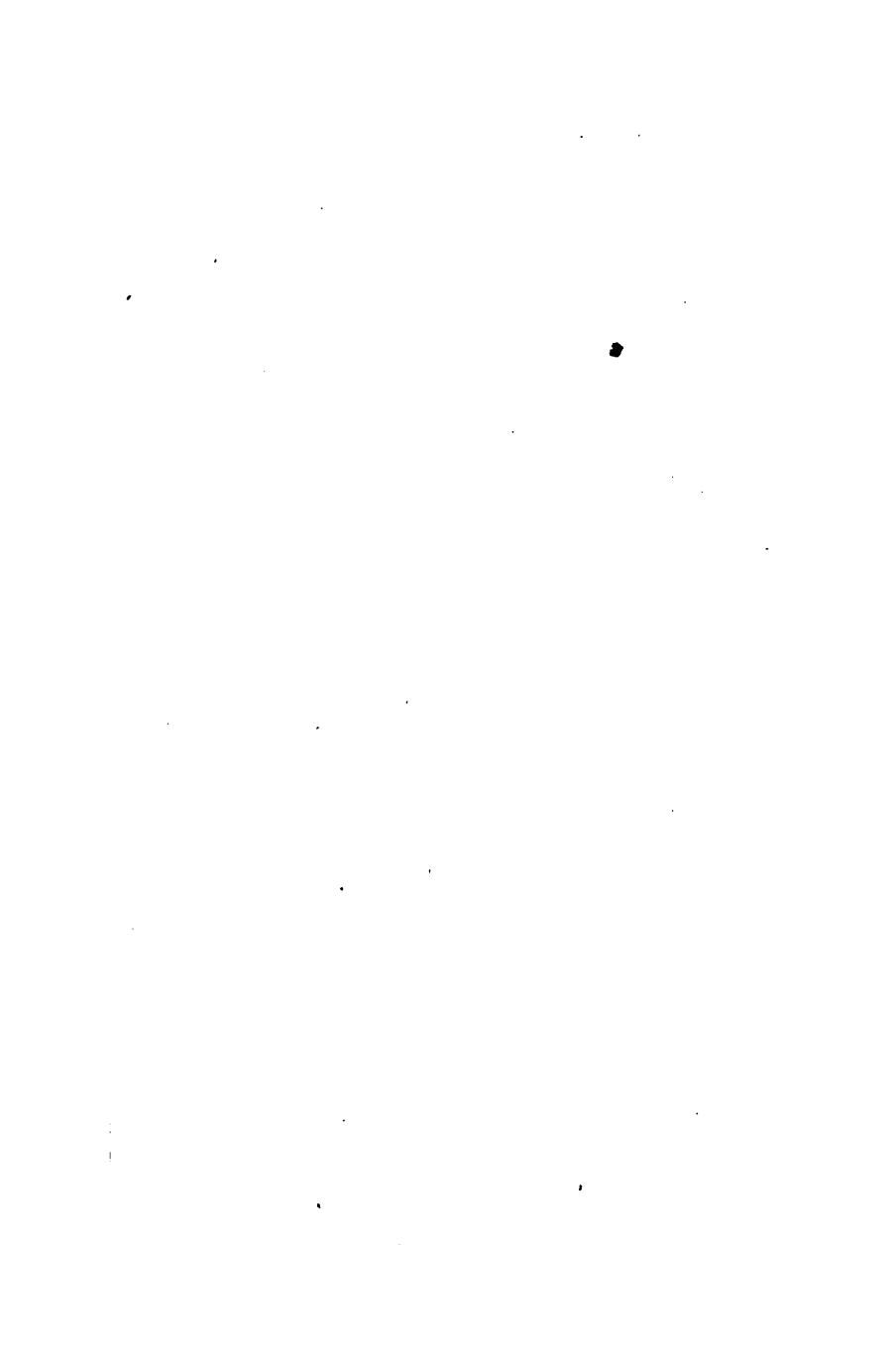


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ON various parts of the Church, Steeple and Towers, are to be found initials and dates, affording evidences of the LONGINES AFTER IMMORTALITY which possessed the persons who cut these inscriptions, but affording no evidence of the date of the erections—at least the inscriptions yet discovered, all subsequent to 1600, afford no clue to the date of the buildings.





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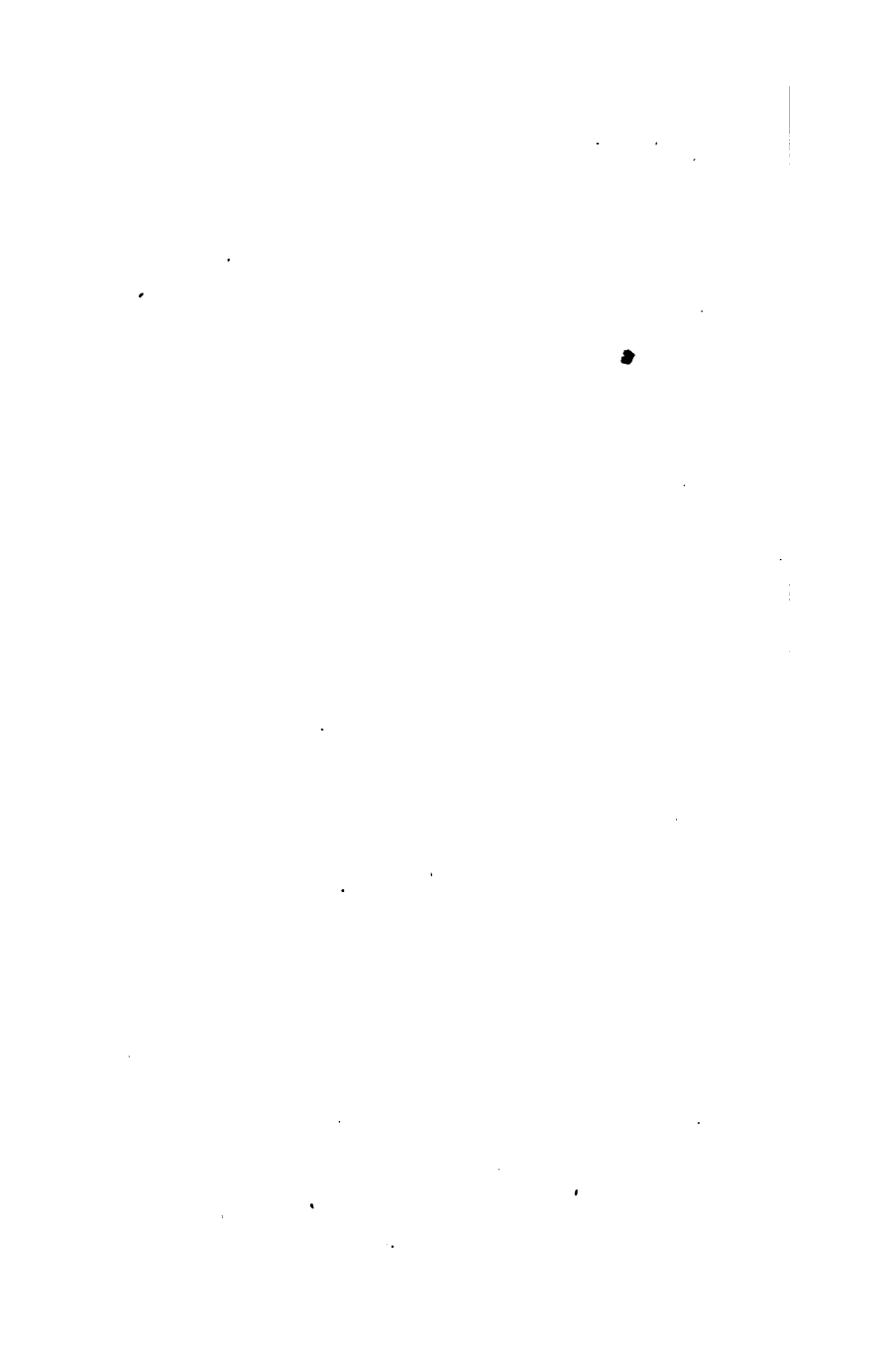


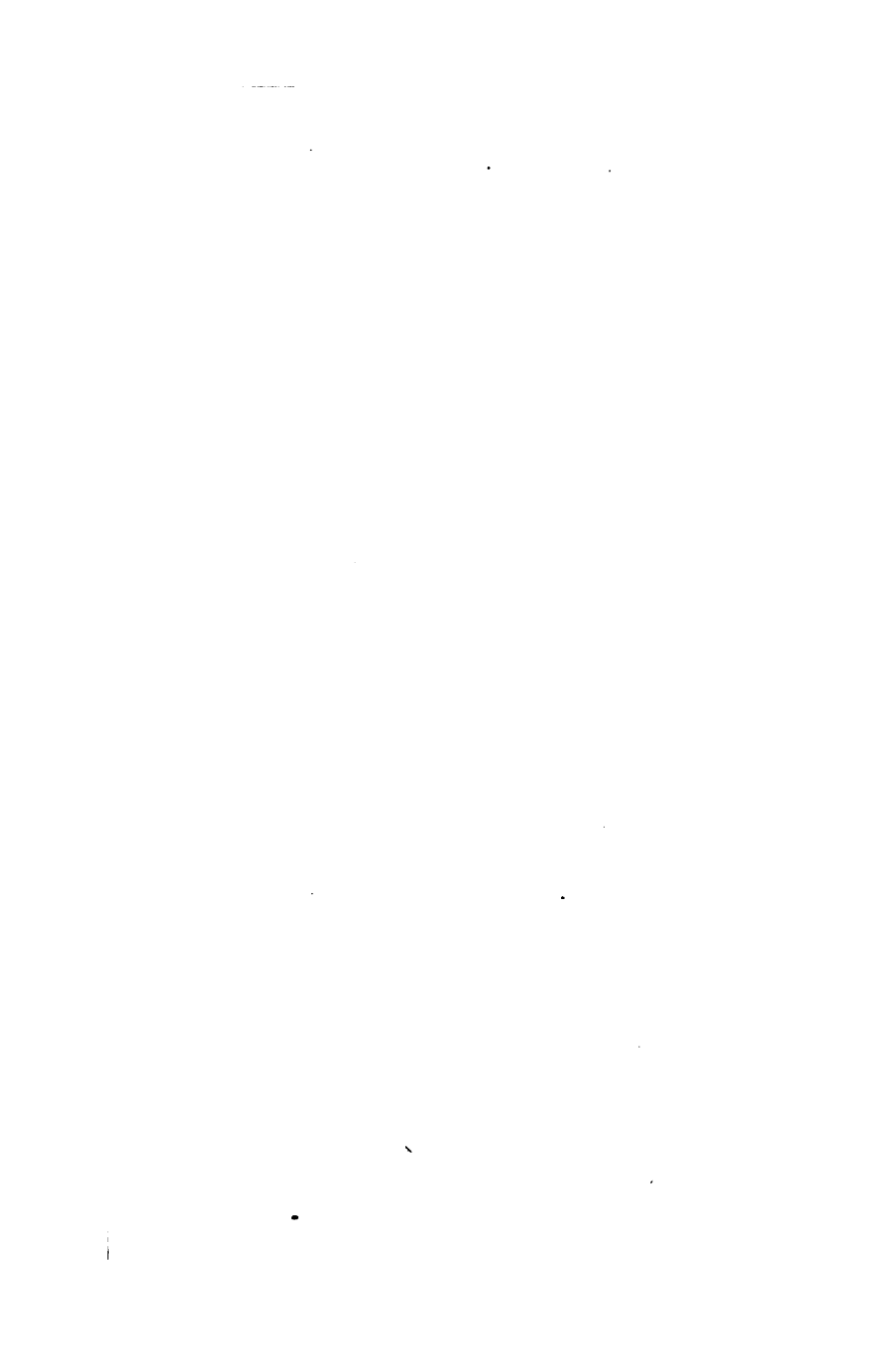
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